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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Secretary General Begins Arab Tour

NC1907104291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo for Damascus this morning at the start of a new Arab tour which will also take him to Lebanon and Jordan. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Syria's al-Asad

JN2007173091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] At 1830 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dr. Ahmad 'Adil, assistant secretary general of the Arab League. Talks revolved round the Arab situation and the Arab League's duties.

Meets Syrian Vice President

JN2107180691 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] At 1800 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and his assistant Mr. Ahmad 'Abid. The meeting was also attended by Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syria's ambassador in Cairo and its permanent representative to the Arab League. They talked about Arab developments and Syria's role in current peace moves in the Middle East. They also spoke about the Arab League organization and intra-Arab relations in general.

Meets With Lebanese Speaker

NC2207120591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has been meeting with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and his aide Ahmad 'Adil since 1230. 'Abd-al-Majid has said that he supports the Lebanese point of view and is convinced that it is correct. As secretary general of the Arab League, he expressed the hope that he will be able to enhance all of Lebanon's efforts to gain full sovereignty. He said Syria's response to the U.S. proposals is positive and consolidates the Arab stand to achieve peace. He added that we must support this stand without a doubt.

After meeting Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, 'Abd-al-Majid said the purpose of his visit is to learn about the future direction of the joint Arab action. He said he admires the Lebanese people and the quick restoration of calm to their country. After meeting with the foreign minister, he said that on his way from Damascus to Beirut, he saw the devastation the fighting has left. He added that the league supports the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty and the extension of its authority to all its territories, despite the obstacles to the Army deployment in Jazzin and to the implementation of Resolution 425.

Concludes Visit to Lebanon

NC2207163191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has expressed his support for the extension of the state's authority to all Lebanese territory and called on the international community to support Lebanon by working to implement the UN resolutions on the south. He emphasized the role the international community, particularly the United Nations and the Arab League, can play in implementing UN Resolution 425. He said that this resolution, which provides for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon, must not be linked with UN Resolution 338, which deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that he regards the question of the fund for Lebanon's reconstruction as a top priority and will raise it with all parties. He noted that support for Lebanon is an Arab and international duty.

'Abd-al-Majid arrived in Beirut earlier today from Damascus and met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, who hosted a luncheon in his honor. He has returned to Damascus, where he will hold two more days of talks with Syrian officials before proceeding to Amman, the last leg of his current Arab tour. [passage omitted]

Arab Maghreb Union Foreign Ministers Meet

LD2207162491 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Rabat 22 July JANA—The activities of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers 9th session commence today in Rabat. The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau Ibrahim Mumammad al-Bishari arrived last evening in Morocco to attend the activities of the session which will be dedicated to the follow-up of the implementation of the resolutions and agreements which had been ratified by the summit of the AMU presidential council in Ras-Lanouf and the previous sessions of the union council.

Libyan, Morrocan Address Meeting

LD2207231191 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] This evening the ninth conference of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers began in Rabat. The meeting follows Morocco's assumption of the chairmanship of the current AMU Presidential Council session on 1 July. The opening meeting of this session was distinguished by the address of the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the chairman of the past session and by the address of the Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation and chairman of the current session.

[Unidentified correspondent] With the attendance of the heads of diplomacy of the AMU countries, the session began. Over two days, the conference, in addition to ratifying the minutes of the past session, will study a number of reports concerning the progress of the establishment of the AMU.

In an address on the occasion, the Libyan foreign minister [as heard] and chairman of the previous session said that there has been important progress toward the achievement of the aims that express the aspirations of the individual Arab. He stressed that the citizens of the AMU countries are looking forward to the confirmation of democracy and the establishment of the principles of the right to free expression and the right of freedom of movement, residence, and work in the AMU countries.

In his reply, Mr. Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation and chairman of the current session, said that Morocco—King, government, and people—are happy to embrace this new stage in the construction of our Greater Maghreb, which has become an inevitable necessity if we are to face up to the future in the era of international blocs and face up to the challenges that are continuously presented by international relations.

Filali emphasized that there is now an urgent need to find realistic and serious ways of overcoming the difficulties and it has become necessary to create departments responsible for implementing and following up the projects resulting from the AMU meetings.

In relation to AMU foreign relations, Filali stressed anew the necessity of working toward closing the Arab ranks after the violent shock brought about by recent events. He also reiterated the AMU stance on the movements witnessed in the Middle East toward establishing a just peace there. He stressed the AMU's support for the proven rights of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

After referring to the regional economic blocs that have been established in the world, he stressed the importance of forming strong ties and economic relations with the Arab and African regions; of aspiring toward the establishment of strong relations and effective cooperation with Latin American countries, which are witnessing a phase of change in all fields; and of working toward strengthening cooperation with the EEC.

Muslim Brotherhood Assails Deal With Israel

LD2107125791 Tehran IRNA in English 1157 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Athens, July 21, IRNA—A leader of Ikhwan al-Muslimun (Muslim Bortherhood) has denounced Egyptian president's proposal to end Arab boycott of Israel in exchange for a stop to Israeli settlements in 1967-occupied territories in Palestine as a "treachery" and called on the Islamic ummah to reject it. "This is the call of a traitor. Those who are calling for it have betrayed the trust of Allah. Islam prohibits to give away an inch of Palestine," the Ikhwan leader in Jordan 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifa told the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in a telephone interview from Amman.

The Egyptian president made the proposal after meeting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Cairo Friday. Baker is visiting the Middle East for the fifth time since the end of the Persian Gulf war. His Frentic [as received] shuttle diplomacy is designed to achieve a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace settlement on the pattern of the 1978 Camp David accord signed between Egypt and Israel. He met King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Saturday who agreed to the Egyptian proposal.

"We can never accept this humiliation which they want us to enter into. The Islamic ummah must unite and it must know that the U.S. is carrying out a new crusade against Islam and the Muslims," Khalifa said, speaking in classical Arabic.

Washington has proposed the holding of a regional Middle East peace conference with the participation of Moscow, but leaves out the United Nations from the peace process. Syria has reportedly made a 180-degree turn and accepted the U.S. peace proposal. "All the Muslims must not accept it (the proposal). How can the Muslim accept the occupation of al-Quds," the Ikhwan leaders said.

The U.S. wants to find a formula that will guarantee the existence of Israel in the heart of the Islamic world through peace treaties with Arab states. The 6-member (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council has also agreed to take part in the peace conference and to hold talks with the Zionist state.

Baker Sunday arrives in Jordan to hold talks with King Husayn before flying to Israel.

'Sources' Say Mubarak Avoiding 'Arafat Meeting

NC2007115291 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Doha, QATARI NEWS AGENCY—Press sources in the Gulf have confirmed that Egypt has apologized for the second time for not being able to receive Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Egypt justified its refusal by saying that President Husni Mubarak is too busy preparing for his upcoming visit to Britain, France, and Germany to receive the PLO chief.

The sources said that President 'Arafat twice asked Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to intervene on his behalf to persuade President Mubarak to meet him in Cairo, and that Libya conveyed the request to Cairo. Libya, the sources added, noted 'Arafat's feeling that holding a Cairo meeting is very important to consult on regional peace efforts. President 'Arafat mentioned his desire to meet with Mubarak in Cairo when he met with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in Libya.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on U.S. Secretary Baker's Regional Tour

PLO Agrees on 21 Jul Meeting

LD2007175191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] A Palestinian source in Tunisia indicated today that the PLO has agreed on a new meeting between national Palestinian officials inside the occupied land and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his current visit to the region. WAFA cited the source as saying that during the meeting the national officials will emphasize the firm Palestinian stance. They will also hear answers from the U.S. secretary of state to the questions they posed during previous meetings. The source stated that the meeting is to take place tomorrow evening and will be attended by Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Zakariyyah al-Agha, and Dr. Sara al-'Ashrawi.

PLO Delegation Members on Talks

JN2207163191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Report by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi on news conference held by Palestinian delegation members Faysal al-Husayni, Zakariya al-Agha, and Hanan 'Ashrawi on 22 July following their meeting with Secretary of State James Baker on 21 July—place not specified; italicized passages recorded]

[Text] Following a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last night and just after Mr. Baker left the country, a number of Palestinian figures from the occupied territories held a news conference attended by representatives of many local and foreign news media. The Palestinian figures, comprising Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, issued a press statement on their meeting with Mr. Baker.

I asked Mr. al-Husayni whether he received answers to the questions posed earlier to Mr. Baker. He said: *There are answers I would like to keep for some time. We received some positive answers to some questions, negative answers to others, and other questions are yet to be answered.*

Asked about the Palestinian delegation that will participate in the regional peace conference in the Middle East, Faysal al-Husayni said: *You can ask the PLO as to the makeup of the Palestinian delegation. Concerning the timing, I still cannot see clear signs that this will be imminent.*

Faysal al-Husayni went on to say that he and his colleagues stressed to the U.S. secretary of state that they consider the nonparticipation of representatives of East Jerusalem in the peace process to be a red line. Al-Husayni gave his opinion on the role of the UN representative at the peace conference—whether he will be a permanent observer, a silent observer, and what his powers will be: *Mr. Baker touched on this subject at earlier meetings. In the latest meeting, there was a question about the Arab countries' position on this subject, especially the Syrian position, which had insisted on a UN presence. I believe that Mr. Baker gave us an incomplete picture on the extent of the agreement with Syria about this issue and the extent of the UN participation. Our opinion is that the United Nations is a representative of the international legitimacy through which the UN resolutions should be implemented.*

I asked Faysal al-Husayni about the opposition of some Palestinian organizations under the Fatah movement to lifting the Arab boycott against Israel, and whether the PLO opposes the Egyptian proposal to end the Arab boycott. He answered: *We believe that the PLO's position on this proposal is similar to what I said a while ago, namely that this settlement activity is illegitimate and contradicts international law. Just as we said in the past that the aggressor should not be rewarded, we also say here that Israeli aggression, as manifested in this activity, should not be rewarded. This is a decision made by the Arab countries. We are now waiting to see whether Israel can accept even this thing.*

Asked whether the fact that the Palestinian delegation that met with the U.S. secretary of state was a reduced one reflects deep differences among Palestinian trends, Faysal al-Husayni said: *First, it is a Palestinian team, not a delegation. If you think that the team is reduced, the fact is that it has been reduced in all of the last three meetings. The PLO decided that the team should comprise only three people. I think there was a conviction that to have three people speaking and presenting views in an organized way is easier and more effective than having a group of 12 people. If each one of the 12 members gave a modest presentation, the time would be over with no chance for further discussions.*

Earlier today, Riyad al-Maliki held a news conference in which he criticized the Palestinian figures that met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Asked about remarks made by Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif on the Arab boycott to Israel, Riyad al-Maliki said: *The boycott is not only a Palestinian decision but an Arab one, too. To abolish the boycott, the party that made the decision should be referred to; this party is neither 'Arafat nor Bassam Abu-Sharif. Another point is that Bassam Abu-Sharif's statements certainly reflect his personal opinion, especially since he has no representative capacity in the PLO institutions and bodies. He is only a personal adviser to Yasir 'Arafat and draws a salary for this job. In other words, he is an employee at the president's office without any representative weight inside the PLO institutions.*

'Official' Views Baker's Meeting

LD2207201191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] An official Palestinian source has said that the PLO Executive Committee will, during the next few days, study all the political developments and moves in the region in light of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour. The source praised the performance of the Palestinian figures who met the U.S. secretary in occupied Jerusalem yesterday. He said: The Palestinian team has efficiently and forcefully presented the Palestinian position, especially on the basic issues concerning representation, rights, Jerusalem, and the settlements. The source added that the national Palestinian figures called on the U.S. Administration to give definite and explicit answers to the fundamental issues as an essential and basic factor in enabling the peace process to take off.

It has been learned that the Palestinians stressed to Baker that there are essential issues that constitute red lines. These concern the role of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, national political rights, and Jerusalem. The Palestinian figures also showed the U.S. secretary of state maps depicting future Israeli settlement schemes. They demanded that Washington prove its seriousness and credibility by exerting pressure on Israel to respect international legitimacy.

Commentary on Baker Mission

LD1907202391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has begun his fifth trip to the region under the umbrella of what has been termed by sources of the G-7 foreign ministers and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh as a great opportunity to push the peaceful political process forward following the positive Syria response to the U.S. proposals.

It is logical for that tour to begin in the country from where that effective positiveness—which was called an unprecedented Syrian move by George Bush—emanated. It is reported, as news agencies reported yesterday, that Baker had under his hat ideas which are ready for practical implementation in accordance with the proposals which have gained unanimous Arab and naturally, international consensus. The most important thing in this round—which goes beyond the old open window to open doors to the region's capitals—is the Israeli stance, which is persistent in its traditional intransigence. [passage omitted]

Observers have noticed the disturbed official Israeli statements concerning the Syrian reply and Washington's interaction with it [as heard]. This has prompted the Israeli media to point out the possibility of the existence of a prior agreement between the United States and Syria, about which the Israeli Government was ignorant and not aware, until the right time, of the real content of the Syrian reply.

Although we do not wish to hasten the results of this new Baker tour, we already feel the nature of the Israeli move, which engineers its steps on the methods of Yitzhaq Shamir, who is renowned for obstruction and playing for time at every phase until the whole process is frozen under the cover of the elections game in both Israel and in the United States.

What hope is there for this great opportunity, which relies on the weight of the foreign ministers of the seven industrial countries and the Soviet Union, to help Baker succeed in his mission effectively and decisively, if it means that this game is ready for the first and only rejectionist, Shamir. Would it be possible for the instigators of the opportunity to tell Shamir clearly and categorically that this kind of a game will not work this time.

Baker's Middle East Tour Viewed

LD2007204191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Brothers, we have no illusions regarding the possibility of success for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who has started a fifth tour of the region. This tour will take him to Damascus, Cairo, Riyadh, Amman, and Tel Aviv, where he will arrive on Sunday. From the visible evidence, there is nothing to suggest in U.S. policy toward the Middle East that there is seriousness in the desire to advance the peace efforts and enable the United States to scale the Israeli wall, which constitutes the most important obstruction along the path of the peace process in the region. In light of the Israeli statements which preceded Baker's fifth tour and subsequent actions by Israel, which is continuously nibbling at the occupied Arab lands, and in light of planting settlements in this land, Baker's mission in Israel will be nearly impossible as long as Baker continues to view Israel as the strategic ally—as the United States has always viewed it. This will make the United States lose any qualification to play the role of the mediator in solving the conflict. No doubt Baker will try to exploit the positive Syrian reply in a manner that will bring more net profits to Israel at the expense of Arab and Palestinian rights and pave the way for Israel and the United States to begin individual solutions which have always been rejected by the Arabs and the Palestinians. While viewing the U.S. secretary of state's fifth tour of the region with more caution and suspicion, we call for the level of coordination among the Arab capitals to be raised so that a single and unified Arab stance may be formulated based on resolutions of Arab legitimacy which in turn are based on international legitimacy. Thus we call on Washington to use the same yardstick in relation to the Palestinian question as it used during the Gulf crisis.

Further on Baker's Talks

LD2207222191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met yesterday evening with three Palestinian figures before his meeting with the Israeli Government leaders chaired by Yitzhak Shamir. It was the fifth meeting between Baker and the Palestinian figures since he started his shuttle tours of the region last March.

During the meetings between the Palestinian figures and the U.S. secretary of state and the meetings which took place with other U.S. officials in Jerusalem and Washington, the Palestinian figures put forward a series of questions directly related to essential and important issues. The Palestinian questions put to the U.S. officials, including Baker, were restricted to the following:

1. the U.S. stance toward the Palestinian people's right to self-determination;

2. the role of the PLO in the various stages of the peace process;

3. the U.S. stance toward Arab Jerusalem;

4. the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories;

5. the U.S. stance toward the participation of Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem in the proposed Palestinian delegation;

6. the legal status of the Palestinian delegation;

7. the transitional stage and international guarantees for it;

8. the international protection of the Palestinian people in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 672, 673, and 681 for 1990;

9. U.S. guarantees that Israel will adhere to what is agreed upon; and

10. the possibility of drafting a Palestinian-U.S. memorandum of understanding on these issues.

So far the Palestinian side has not obtained any written answers. The United States has always repeated that these issues, and other points of substance, will be discussed when the peace talks commence.

Yesterday Baker informed the Palestinian figures of some of the results of his talks in Damascus, Cairo, Jeddah, and Amman, including the positive Syrian reply to U.S. President Bush's proposals and the Egyptian-Saudi stance on ending the Arab boycott of Israel if Israel agrees to freeze the settlements in the occupied territories. Then he asked them about the Palestinian stance on the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, particularly as he wanted to obtain an answer before his meeting with the Israeli prime minister.

The Palestinian figures asked the U.S. secretary: What about the answers we are waiting for? How could you imagine the commencement of talks without giving clear and written answers to certain issues without which the commencement of the talks cannot be imagined—particularly the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, the role of the PLO, Jerusalem, and the settlements?

We do not need to recall that the position the Palestinian figures presented to the U.S. secretary of state yesterday was the same as that which has always constituted the basis of the Palestinian movement, both in the Arab and international arenas. It expressed the constants of the clear and explicit position which relies on the resolutions of the 19th Palestine National Council session; the resolutions of the Arab summits; and the resolutions of international legitimacy, the slogans of which the United States kept chanting and under which it raised armies against Arab Iraq.

With Baker listening to the clear and explicit Palestinian stance toward the settlement efforts and also his reception of the positive Syrian reply to the U.S. proposals, one of the main excuses that the U.S. Administration has long used collapsed. The U.S. Administration used that excuse to wriggle out of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy with the same seriousness and enthusiasm it used against Iraq. Hence the U.S. Administration has again put itself to a real test of its intentions in relation to the establishment of peace in the region and its seriousness in exerting the required pressure on Israel in order to make it accept the international resolutions.

It is not improbable that in the face of such a situation Israel might show some superficial flexibility in its views on the acceptance of a role for the United Nations in the proposed peace conference. By this flexibility, Israel seeks to avert international pressure and throw the ball once more into the Arab court in order to obtain more free Arab concessions.

Anyway, the important thing that the U.S. secretary of state should understand as he carries out his fifth tour of the region is the fact that any disregard of the role of the PLO in the peace process will not lead to the required peace in the region. This disregard will even double the factors of tension and place the region again over a powder keg that could explode at any moment. We have to stress that the single united Arab position and the increase in the degree of coordination among the Arab capitals in order to formalize such a united stance on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy constitute a sure guarantee for protecting Arab rights and rstoring what has been usurped of these rights.

'Arafat's Conditions for Successful Conference

JN2207170191 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that the success of the peace conference on the Middle East depends on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to self- determination.

Favors Egypt as Conference Venue

LD2207195891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the brother president and leader, has announced that the success of the Middle East peace conference depends on the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem. In reply to a question about the current negotiations aimed at pushing forward the peace process, the brother president said in an interview with AFP: The success of such a conference also depends on fulfilling the national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination. Brother Abu-'Ammar stated that the PLO considers Egypt authorized to host the peace conferences in view of the status and acceptance which Egypt enjoys on the Arab, regional, and international levels.

Democratic Front Rejects U.S. Peace Proposals

NC2007190791 Paris AFP in English 1819 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, July 20 (AFP)—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Saturday rejected recent U.S. peace proposals because it said they exclude the PLO and fail to put pressure on Israel. The DFLP, a main component of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said in a statement here: "These proposals do not respond to the minimum of conditions for a comprehensive and balanced solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is essentially the Palestinian cause.

The proposals "ignore resolutions of international law and Palestinian national rights, exclude the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—from peace efforts and do not show the least willingness to exert pressure on the Israeli Government for it to stop settlements (in the occupied territories) and repression against the Palestinian people," it said.

"These proposals are for a Palestinian representation within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation limited to figures from the occupied territories and do not include members living in Jerusalem," it said. "This means that the U.S. Administration insists on denying the right of return to the Palestinians in the diaspora, which is recognized by international law and the resolutions of the (U.N.) Security Council," it said.

The comments come just two days after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker secured Syria's acceptance of U.S. compromise proposals for a Middle East conference.

Conditions for Supporting Peace Conference Given

NC2207131391 Paris AFP in English 1244 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, July 22 (AFP)—A PLO Executive Committee member said Monday that the Palestinian delegation at any future peace conference must be chosen by the Palestine Liberation Organization. "There will be no peace conference without the representation of the PLO as defined by the Organization. And there will be no Palestinian support for a peace process that does not recognize this," Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told AFP.

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh arrived in Damascus Sunday as part of a delegation led by PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi to discuss regional developments with authorities in light of Syria's approval of the U.S. proposal for convening a peace conference.

"The total and equal representation of the Palestinians is the guarantee that Palestinian rights will be upheld," Mr. 'Abd-Rubbah said. "Unless the basis for the peace conference is the complete (Israeli) withdrawal from its occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and the right of Palestinian self-determination, we do not want any part in the talks," he added.

Mr. 'Abd-Rubbah said the organization did not approve of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's call over the weekend to lift the Arab boycott against Israel in exchange for a freeze of settlements in the occupied territories. He said that such a deal "seeks to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict before solving the Palestinian question."

Israel, which considers the PLO as a "terrorist" organisation, is opposed to any role for the group in future peace talks and has likewise rejected the link between the boycott and settlements on the occupied territories.

PFLP Rejects Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation

JN2207174691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] In a statement issued in Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has rejected the formula of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the expected peace negotiations. The statement adds that the PFLP believes that such a formula is intended to cancel independent Palestinian representation and thus cancel national Palestinian rights.

'Arafat Sends 'Important' Message to al-Hirawi

LD1907194491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday sent an important message to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The contents of the message have not been disclosed. President 'Arafat entrusted the message with Sulayman Farah, Lebanese ambassador and doyen of the diplomatic corps in Tunisia, during their meeting yesterday.

No Normalization Before Israeli Withdrawal

JN2207081491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jul 91 pp 18,14

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] A high-level Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and comprising Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the Information Department and member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] and Sulayman al-Najjab, members of the PLO Executive Committee, has arrived in Damascus. The delegation stopped in Amman for a while on its way to the Syrian capital.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B before leaving Amman, Sulayman al-Najjab said that the delegation's visit comes within the framework of coordination, consultation, and exchange of views between the PLO and Syrian leaderships, especially since the PLO is making every possible effort to enhance coordination among the countries directly concerned with the peace conference, particularly Jordan, Syria, and Egypt.

Al-Najjab added: As is known, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories assigned by the Palestinian leadership, as well as officials in a number of Arab countries during his current tour of the region. This necessitates a new round of coordination and exchange of views.

Replying to a question on the visit at a time when Syrian acceptance to engage in talks with Israel was announced, al-Najjab said: We are going to Syria to hear from the Syrians and the Syrian leadership what was agreed upon between them and U.S. Secretary James Baker before the next joint steps can be determined.

Responding to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B on what President Mubarak declared about lifting the Arab boycott of Israel in exchange for halting settlements and the PLO's viewpoint in this regard, Sulayman al-Najjab said: The PLO believes that normalizing relations with Israel before its withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, especially Jerusalem, does not serve our joint action toward halting settlements and ensuring Israel's commitment to withdraw from all of the territories it occupied in 1967 and to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. This should be done before speaking about any normalization or mutual security steps. Israel's leaders continue the policy of blackmail and imposition of concessions on the Arab countries. Meanwhile, it is receiving the U.S. Administrations' full support. As we are heading toward a peace conference, the trend should be for a comprehensive settlement that guarantees Israel's withdrawal, resolution of the Palestinian refugees' problem, and Palestinian right to self determination in return for guarantees of security, peace, and normalization of Arab relations with Israel.

On the visit to Syria by the president of the state of Palestine, al-Najjab said: We raised this issue during the previous visit, and the Syrian reply was positive and Syria welcomed President 'Arafat's visit once an appropriate time for this visit is fixed.

'Arafat Interviewed on Intifadah, Gulf War, Iraq

PM2307090691 Paris LE FIGARO in French 20-21 Jul 91 p 3

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Eric Laurent; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Laurent] Since the end of the Gulf war the PLO has been in trouble. The crisis affecting your movement was further exacerbated by the total disarmament of the Palestinian forces in Lebanon. You no longer have any military presence. How do you see your situation?

['Arafat] We will always exist, no matter where. Remember, in 1979 Brzezinski, Carter's special adviser, said: "Good-bye PLO!" In 1982, during the war in Lebanon, the Israelis and their allies took up the same refrain. We are tried experts in survival and some day we will reemerge even stronger from the difficulties, from the abyss into which we have fallen.

[Laurent] But you have never been so isolated—especially within the Arab world.

['Arafat] You are absolutely determined to portray us as isolated, but it is untrue. Nobody can ever manage to eliminate 6.5 million Palestinians from the face of the earth. Here is just one example of our vitality: There are now more Palestinian graduates than Israeli graduates. The Jews are an elite in France, Germany, the Soviet Union, almost everywhere. Here we are the elite, but it is true, we are suffering. We are pursuing our painful path step by step.

[Laurent] Your political situation is critical. You have lost the financial support of several countries including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and Syria wants to weaken you in order to ultimately take control of the Palestinian organization.

['Arafat] We are not the only losers. The entire Arab nation was defeated. Nevertheless, it is true, we are undoubtedly the main losers.

[Laurent] Will the Syrians not succeed this time in causing a split within the PLO?

['Arafat] This has already been tried in the past—unsuccessfully. I believe that we are still strong enough to avert such a development. It will not be easy to bury us.

[Laurent] Do you really believe that the PLO has the means to survive?

['Arafat] Definitely. People have already tried to eliminate the Palestinians, and they are still here. The intifadah has lasted for four years. Take Gaza, where people are suffering aggressions and famine. Thousands of people have been wounded and others are under arrest, but their determination is not weakening.

[Laurent] Nevertheless observers believe that the intensity of the intifadah is decreasing.

['Arafat] No, that is not true. Israel's General Rothschild admitted last week that all the rumors of a weakening intifadah were unfounded.

[Laurent] Your leadership is said to be under challenge. Has the post-'Arafat era begun?

['Arafat] I would be very happy to be replaced by one or other of my friends around me. I have already asked several times. They have always refused. Remember, I offered my resignation several times in the past, and it has never been accepted. You refer to the criticisms of me, but that is part of democracy, of our democratic functioning. I am not a leader; I simply lead fighters.

[Laurent] According to you, you have no enemies, there is no threat to the PLO, and you are not being challenged.

['Arafat] No, I have never said that. I do have enemies—first and foremost, the Israelis, Shamir, and the Likud Party.

[Laurent] And...

['Arafat] I have allies.

[Laurent] You have just returned from Iraq where you had a lengthy meeting with Saddam Husayn for the first time since 2 February. Tension is high again. An ultimatum, which expires 25 July, has been issued to the Iraqi chief of state. Do you have the feeling that we are on the verge of another major crisis?

['Arafat] I still hope that we can avert another tragedy, further wounds. An American report has just revealed that the Arab countries have lost $488 billion following the Gulf war. Can you imagine the significance of such an amount and its consequences?

[Laurent] Could there be another war?

['Arafat] I hope not, with all my heart!

Fatah's al-Hasan Says U.S. 'More Serious' Now

PM2207085491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jul 91 p 3

[Report on interview with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan by 'Abdallah al-Haj in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC] Foreign Relations Committee, has said in an interview with AL-HAYAH in Jeddah, where he is receiving medical treatment, that the position adopted by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat during the Gulf war led to the PLO's isolation and enabled the United States to free itself from Arab pressure. [passage omitted]

Regarding current peace efforts al-Hasan said: "There are fundamental aspects or points of attraction affecting the peace process and the peace scenario at present. The first element concerns the Zionist enemy, which does not want peace, does not want to relinquish a single inch of land, and resorts to such tricks as tasteless and colorless proposals to exploit the time factor so that no breakthrough can be achieved until November when the U.S. Senate elections start.

The second point concerns the U.S. position, which faces an international demand for a commitment to implement international law in resolving problems. The U.S. position spoke about the commitment of international law to resolving the Middle East problem, but the tone in which this was said during the Gulf war is no longer as sharp and loud. Instead of proceeding from international law, it broke it up and started from Resolution 242 which represents the international law of the 1967 war, not that of the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

He expressed his belief that the U.S. Administration "is more serious this time than before, and it is the first time in the history of the Palestinian issue that the United States has been serious. Before international detente, Moscow and Washington were not serious or sincere in their dealings for the sake of peace, since the Palestine issue was one of the elements of the Cold War. Now that the Cold War has ended, the issue is no longer a principal element, which is why it is necessary now to reach a solution, especially since the United States has enemies in the region at the official level, as was the case in the past, even if it is just verbal enmity." [passage omitted]

Regarding the Gulf war, al-Hasan pointed out that the "position adopted by brother Yasir 'Arafat has led to the PLO's isolation and enabled the United States to free itself from the Arab pressure which used to be exerted in one way or another vis-a-vis the dialogue with the PLO and its recognition as the Palestinian people's representative. The PLO is now experiencing Arab—and consequently international—political and financial isolation because the international position primarily supports the PLO's isolation. The mistake that occurred in 'Arafat's position on the Gulf war helped Europe and the United States to return to the isolation idea without facing pressures from their peoples such as those that ocurred in the days preceding the Gulf war."

Al-Hasan said that the Syrian position "is the only position which is positively active on the scene regarding the Middle East issue, since it is the only one capable of leading the negotiation process so as not to make the Zionist entity feel totally comfortable." "The United States is very pleased with Syrian friendship and does not want to lose Syria. It wants Syria to be part of the peace process. Syria is known for its ability to negotiate. This is why it deals only with the conditions that suit the peace process best." He added: "We must look at the stage ahead with extreme caution, not extreme optimism. I believe that the fundamental basis for the Palestinian issue is the restoration of Arab solidarity because the Palestinian issue has a special international character. Israel is an imperialist scheme. It is the only imperialist scheme agreed by both East and West. It is the only imperialist scheme endorsed by capitalism and socialism. Thus it is a state which lives entirely on foreign aid and support. Its economy cannot survive without continuous injections. The international position is the key to any solution of the Palestinian issue. It is subject to the law of economic and geographical interests, none of which the Palestinian people possess and which the Arabs do possess. Thus without an Arab locomotive the Palestinian train cannot travel on the international scene." [passage omitted]

Al-Hasan emphasized that he raised the need to form a joint Palestinian delegation and that his request was not approved, though no decision against it was issued. "The inclination during the debates was disapproval, due to the misinformation which confused a joint delegation with a Jordanian delegation including Palestinians or a joint delegation with a a subordinate delegation. A joint delegation does not negate independence because every delegation refers to its own authority. A joint delegation would go to the negotiations with an action plan approved by both delegations' authorities." [passage omitted]

"The only practical solution is a joint delegation because Jordan is not a principal part of the peace process, rather it is a wing without which the Palestinian entity cannot fly because of political and human geographical factors. You cannot get anywhere in the world without dealing with Jordan or Israel. So it is unreasonable for us to reject Jordan and accept Israel."

Regarding the provisional government, al-Hasan said that "it is a matter endorsed by the PNC and that it exists since the Executive Committee—under a Central Council decision—is exercising the provisional government's powers until it is formed. The dispute that delayed its formation is over its administrative structure. Should it assume the Executive Committee's structure? If so there is no need to create leading cadres from the same people with different names and leave the Executive Committee as it is. If we want to rise to the level of international politics and the PNC level regarding the establishment of a provisional government, we must establish this government differently than the Executive Committee because the fact about the provisional government is that it is provisional, so the principal rules in pluralism have nothing to do with establishing the government."

He added: "We want to break the Arab isolation in this stage and the Executive Committee in its present position is rejected because it represents organizations that supported Iraq. Thus it is biased and unacceptable to part of the Arab world that represents fundamental weight on the isolation issue. A politician does not deal with things as the judiciary does. He deals with them practically, for the sake of public welfare. Governments are formed with a political aim, and King Husayn of Jordan represents a big lesson for us. If he wanted to create a problem with (former Egyptian President) Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, he would appoint Wasfi al-Tall prime minister. If he wanted cordial relations with 'Abd-al-Nasir, he would appoint 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Rifa'i, and if he wanted cordial relations with Syria, he would appoint Zayd al-Rifa'i." [passage omitted]

Regarding the reasons for the clashes that occurred between the Lebanese Army and Palestinian fighters, al-Hasan said: I believe, in principle, that whoever started the fighting was in the wrong. The Lebanese Army needs a battle in which to triumph over the Palestinians in order to conclude the 15-year civil war with a victory. For example, I am amazed that all the forward positions, including the command center, handed over their arms, and the battle was inside the camp. I still do not know the reasons for this, but I emphasize that whoever started the fighting is in the wrong since this is not in anyone's interest. I hope that the Lebanese Government will realize that all that has existed in the past in Lebanon needs to be changed, and I hope that no one will regard this as interference since the Lebanese brothers are sensitive about sovereignty to the extent that if someone says "I love Lebanon," they tell him: "Why should you love Lebanon; Lebanon is ours." They regard loving Lebanon as interference in politics. I hope they will change this. The leadership that does not realize that conditions have changed and therefore encourage a change will suffer from senility, hence disability and failure. This applies to us, the Palestinian leadership, and to the Lebanese leadership, just as it applies to any leadership in the world.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Peace Process

NC1907112491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to show the flexibility needed to resolve the Middle East problem and achieve peace.

In the second and last installment of his interview with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH that will be published on 19 July, President Mubarak said: I would like the Israeli people to know one important thing: that Israel stands to benefit the most from the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

Answering a question on the type of flexibility required from Shamir, President Mubarak said: It is not reasonable to continue building settlements and then talk about finding a solution. What solution? What would you be solving? What kind of solution can you find when you are building settlements for Israelis at the expense of the inhabitants of the West Bank. You cannot discuss a solution while acting this way. This policy means the expulsion of the West Bank's inhabitants.

President Mubarak went on to say that this behavior contradicts the Israelis' rhetoric. He added: I do not interfere in Israel's internal affairs at all.

President Mubarak said that it will be possible to hold a peace conference before the end of this year, but added that its venue had not been decided yet and that no agreement has been reached concerning its convocation.

President Mubarak said that the central issue is not where to hold the conference nor whether the conference will be regional or international. Mubarak said that what is important is to agree on the conference and its convocation and to meet and negotiate about the problem. This is what is essential and what matters.

When asked whether relations with the PLO have improved during the preparations for a conference, the president answered by saying: We have relations with the PLO and continue to consult with it. PLO delegations arrive regularly in Cairo. Mubarak added that it is Egypt's destiny to solve the Palestinian issue.

Concerning the possibility of a tripartite meeting among President Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, President Mubarak said: I am not afraid of any meeting, whether tripartite or with King Husayn or Shamir, but this possibility is just a rumor.

Mubarak said that if such a meeting were to produce a definite result serving the Palestinian issue and regional peace, he would not hesitate to participate in it. He added that the Egyptian people want this issue to be solved and want to see peace.

Answering a question about Iran's campaign against Egypt, President Mubarak said that this campaign is over and that it is not in Egypt's interest to be hostile to Iran. The president said: I am one who seeks to have good relations with everyone, including Iran.

The president said that there has been no mediation to resolve the Iranian issue, but noted that the Iranian foreign minister recently received the Egyptian charge d'affaires for the first time in Tehran.

To a question about Egypt's role in achieving Arab reconciliation and clearing the Arab atmosphere, President Mubarak said that the atmosphere must improve, because many problems are still outstanding and there are wounds that have not yet been healed. President Mubarak asserted that concrete steps should be taken to clear the air and noted that confidence continues to be lacking. He added: It is inconceivable for us to forget what people have done recently and then ask to sit with them as if nothing has happened.

Asked how to achieve this Arab reconciliation, President Mubarak said: The factors which led to the loss of confidence must be eliminated. The final solution, however, is the passage of time. President Mubarak asked: How can we expect reconciliation and a clear atmosphere as long as the effects of the Gulf crisis continue? The Gulf states will not be able to deal with the Iraqi president. I personally cannot deal with him after all that happened to me, but this does not mean I am saying he must be overthrown. President Mubarak added: This is not my concern, because it is the Iraqi people's decision, and I have nothing to do with it.

Replying to a question on whether the present conditions in Iraq and the pressures on it are pushing it toward partition, President Mubarak stressed that he hopes Iraq will not be partitioned under any circumstance. He said: I do not believe that anyone in the Arab nation wants this to occur. We hope Iraq will remain united, because its partition would be extremely serious. He added: What happened to Iraq resulted from misunderstanding the situation more than from any arrogance. Immediately after the Iran-Iraq war ended, however, I did warn about this arrogance and its consequences.

Responding to a question on the clamor raised about Iraq's nuclear program, President Mubarak said there is a basic lack of trust backed by irrefutable evidence that Iraq has not been telling the truth.

President Mubarak stressed that there are no problems with the Damascus Declaration. He said the brothers in the Gulf know what Egypt's intentions are and that it has the ability to help defend any Arab country that asks for help or is threatened. He added: The Damascus Declaration needs to be reviewed and redrafted so our brothers in the Gulf states can avoid several problems. These matters can be solved at the foreign ministers meetings. He denied that there has been any economic withdrawal from the Gulf states since the liberation of Kuwait. He said that the word withdrawal is a seditious rumor meant to cause confusion. He added: I believe that the Gulf states will not hesitate to give if we ask for something. He noted that the Arab brothers have never hesitated to fulfill whatever Egypt demanded, even before diplomatic relations were restored with Egypt.

Asked about his conception of security arrangements in the Gulf, President Mubarak said: The best we can hope for is to see the Gulf states reach a position where they can defend themselves on their own, without other countries' intervention or help. This is what we want and hope for. He added: Even before this stage is reached, we will not hesitate to help these countries if they are threatened, and we have the ability to do so when asked. We will provide assistance in accordance with the Joint Arab Defense Treaty.

On Iran's role in Gulf security arrangements, President Mubarak said that Iran is undoubtedly one of the region's major powers and is also a Gulf littoral country and that no one can call for excluding it from any regional arrangement. He added: Iran should be included in the security arrangements that the Gulf Coopertion Council is formulating. Egypt is not the party drawing up these arrangements.

Asked whether Iranian forces will participate in these security arrangements, President Mubarak said: Naturally, in the case of security, Iran is different from the Arab countries in that the latter are bound by a joint defense treaty and by the Arab League and its Charter. Another way for Iran to participate in the security arrangements must be found, and it is up to the Gulf states to specify how this can be done.

In conclusion, President Mubarak stressed the importance of joint exercises by the Arab countries. He said that these exercises must be held regularly, because this is the ideal way to ensure united and joint action. He added that it is not necessary to have a unified command for the Arab forces participating in the exercises and that the Arab countries can agree among themselves on exactly how this type of coordination can be carried out.

Mubarak Delivers Revolution Anniversary Speech

NC2207122891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0808 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak on the 23 July Revolution anniversary at the National Democratic Party General Secretariat headquarters in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother citizens: With deep faith and loyalty, today we are celebrating the anniversary of the glorious July revolution. This revolution will forever be a source of pride and honor for every Egyptian man and woman and for all free and honest men throughout the world as long as the banners of freedom and dignity continue to fly. The great Egyptian people's revolution was a unique and pioneering experience in mankind's contemporary history in view of its lofty goals, the humanitarian and cultural program to which it adhered, the profound and radical changes it made in all aspects of life in Egypt and throughout the Arab world, as well as its effects on various Third World countries. This revolution has become worthy of being a day of dignity and freedom everywhere.

On this glorious day, it is worthwhile to remember the good elite of Egypt's noble sons who put their lives on the line for the sake of God and the homeland and set the most magnificent examples of sacrifice and giving when they took part in the revolutionary procession under the leadeship of Egypt's noble son, Jamal 'Abd-al- Nasir, [applause] rushing to give for Egypt and fly its banners high. It was a unique and pioneering revolution because it avoided killing and bloodshed, and thus expressed the traditional values entrenched in the Egyptian conscience for eternity. The Egyptians have never been bloodthirsty nor have they been enemies of life; rather they have held the value of life in high esteem and have understood the meaning of compassion and tolerance among people throughout their eventful history. It was a pioneering revolution because it was not an unbridled tempest that came to burn and destroy; rather it sought to build, to remove obstacles from the path of national struggle, to plant trees of freedom in the good earth, and to lay sound foundations for an honest political life in which the people would be able to express their aspirations and exercise their rights and powers. The people's will was not falsified and its freedom was not restricted.

The revolution was launched to restore Egypt's noble national image that rejects submission to colonialism, despotism, and exploitation; prevents capital from dominating the government; builds a national force capable of safeguarding the country, its rights, and interests; and cleanses political life of all that kept the people from expressing their will for many long decades. It sought to establish a comprehensive system of social justice that would ensure equal rights and duties for all citizens.

This phenomenal revolution has been unique among human revolutions. From the very beginning, this revolution secured complete cooperation between those who carried out the revolution and the masses throughout Egypt's territory. The conscious masses of the people realized from the first moment that this faithful group of men from the Egyptian Armed Forces were leading the revolutionary movement in order to recover the basic interests of the people, who have a genuine interest in the nationalist march's success.

The July Revolution was a pioneering one, because it realized from the very start that any society's nationalist movement is a continuously flowing current; it represents a continuous work and consists of successive, unbroken, and interwoven chains. The people's march cannot start in a vacuum, cannot be separated from the past, and must be able to penetrate into the future. The revolution led by Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir in July 1952 in continuation of the extensive struggle march carried out by the people as part of the modern era's nationalist movement came within this context. This movement was led by early groups of Egyptian mujahidin. The names of 'Umar Makram, Ahmad 'Urabi, Mustafa Kamil, Muhammad Farid, Sa'd Zaghlul, and Mustafa al-Nahhas were prominent in this movement, as were the thousands of honest strugglers who placed the homeland's interests above all other considerations and joined their leaders on the road of struggle and sacrifice.

The revolution took on great historic importance when it realized that nationalist work cannot be confined to the political movement, but should rather have a social and economic context, and that progress cannot be achieved if these different fields are not merged to achieve comprehensive development in all aspects of life in Egypt.

The Egyptian Revolution was also able to respond to the requirements of the nationalist work in all stages, because its participants refused to be restricted by inflexible frameworks and were eager to secure broad freedoms for their movement. The revolution adhered to practical goals and principles, not to theoretical ideas that have no link with the reality of the masses' everyday life.

And finally, the Egyptian Revolution has not been a local adventure of narrow goals and purposes. In essence, it was a deep human experience that stemmed from a conscious realization of the existing regional and international conditions and of the various peoples' struggle for a better life throughout the world. It was natural for Third World people in all continents to consider this pioneering revolution to be a mother revolution that cannot be ignored and which has an impact on every inch of this earth.

With these features and characteristics, the revolution's brilliant face shone over the land of the peaceful valley. It changed the features of life on the homeland's sacred soil in a few years. It also eliminated foreign influence and subservience to it, ended the capitalists' control of the government, Egyptianized the national economy, eliminated feudalism and exploitation, achieved social justice, established a major industrial base, built the High Dam, and created strong Armed Forces capable of defending this homeland's vital interests.

It was with this clear vision and unique ability to go beyond political and geographic boundaries that the Egyptian revolution helped unshackle some Arab, African, and Asian countries from colonialism. It presented to these countries' peoples a shining example of a national movement that can respond to the masses' hopes, while simultaneously interacting with current realities and considering those international conditions which affect the national action process. Perhaps it is appropriate at this juncture for us to ponder together the colossal achievements full of profound historical meaning, which the Egyptian people have accomplished through cohesion with their Armed Forces on the path to national liberation in the various phases the country has been experiencing since the inception of the revolution:

1. Attaining the complete withdrawal of foreign forces from Egyptian territories in June 1955 and ending the colonialist period from which the country suffered for centuries.

2. Rejecting foreign alliances, choosing positive neutrality and nonalignment, and ridding the entire Arab area of attempts to restore colonialism in a new form under different names.

3. Achieving the October victory with the leadership of former President Muhammad 'Anwar al-Sadat. [applause] This victory dispelled the myth of Israeli superiority, restored to the Arab nation its dignity and prestige, and opened the road to a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

4. Achieving a complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April 1982, ridding the country completely of all the effects of foreign occupation, and eliminating all threats to the national soil's security and to national sovereignty.

5. Contributing to deterring the aggression to which the fraternal Arab countries in the Gulf were subjected and effectively participating in confronting a situation that could have dealt a blow to the heart of pan-Arab security and broken up Arab solidarity.

I express heartfelt greetings to every officer and soldier who helped gain these achievements, which will be recorded in the annals of history with shining letters. [applause]

I also greet Egypt's noble martyrs who offered their pure souls for the sake of this homeland and whose blood blended with every grain of soil in the land of immortal Egypt. [applause].

Brother citizens: I have presented to you some of the Egyptian achievements during the revolution era. These deeds are lofty national and human achievements free from egotism and fanaticism. They do not stop at certain limits because they emanate from the principle of the unity of the human march. We are not mentioning these achievements to boast. Never. We are only reviewing them together on the 39th anniversary of the revolution to assert our confidence in ourselves and strengthen our faith in the ability of our great people to make achievements in all political and social fields and on local and international levels.

I am not defending the revolution, because the broad masses will protect the revolution's march and defend its accomplishments. A revolution is not a slogan raised or words spoken, but a constant dynamic movement that expresses itself in every creative work or production in all aspects of national action. Anyone who imagines that the people will accept turning back the clock [appaluse] or accept any infringement on the homeland's and people's great achievements during the revolutionary downpour is mistaken. This, however, does not mean that the revolution's path was free of mistakes. We fully realize that any human action naturally is exposed to the possibilities of making right or wrong decisions, and that mistakes are part of human nature.

The revolution encountered ferocious challenges and frenzied and unjust campaigns. Biased forces inside and outside Egypt fought the revolution. It was not because of these forces that Egypt and the entire region proceeded on this revolutionary path toward national liberation and salvation from exploitation and enslavement. This conflict resulted in difficult, unique circumstances which required the revolution to pursue behavior that did not constitute a basic plank in its ideology and program. These circumstances were temporary phenomena soon overtaken by events.

The revolutionary march by definition is a constantly progressing movement that does not linger on past achievements and mistakes, except to learn lessons from them to motivate future actions. The revolution was forced to experiment during the early stages, and searched for a firm and stable course during the stages of maturity and national harvest. From this perspective, the revolution focused in the early years on achieving social justice, consolidating the principle of equal opportunities for the people, and correcting the great imbalance in the distribution of wealth and other economic factors. When this was achieved, the way was paved for strengthening the democratic structure and deepening commitment to human rights. Thus, political freedom became an achievement which fleshed out economic freedom and social justice.

No one can deny that Egypt has come a long way toward democratic transformation in the last few years. Now it is the people who express their will, make their decisions, and elect their representatives under the supremacy of law and legitimacy. The political leadership acts only in line with the people's will, which is the basis of rule. One is surprised and sad when certain circles which have been in the habit of forging slogans about democracy and constitutional legitimacy use these slogans outside a sound context. These circles are trying to exploit these slogans to make narrow political gains at the expense of the supreme national interests, forgetting or trying to forget that maneuvering with these slogans is not in the national interests and that the people are able to distinguish between good and evil and right and wrong.

I tell those who are seeking to entangle the country in dark labyrinths and reckless adventures in pusuit of sinful whims to fear God for the sake of their homeland. Beware of fomenting sedition, because you will be the first victims of its fire. We do not oppose efforts to achieve perfection. But we must realize that only God is perfect. We are eager to continue progressing to a better position, but we are duty bound to consider realities and not give in to illusions and the imagination. Everyone knows we do not seek the presidential post to be rulers, nor are we professional politicians. We proceeded to bear the trust of responsibility in loyalty to the homeland and in deference to the will of the people, who have the final say in everything that affects their fate and future. We have no interest in maintaining a situation that will not achieve the public interest or protect the rights of the homeland and citizens now and in the future. This is the only criterion that governs all our approaches and policies.

Those who are crying about usurped freedom and incomplete democracy had better take a close and honest look at the state of affairs in Egypt before the revolution. At the time, all gains and profits were the privilege of a small minority, and the vast majority had only suffered and been humiliated. Did we forget the situation in which foreign authorities and the palace dominated everything through steel and fire? Did we forget that these authorities ignored the masses' rights and basic interests? Did we forget their tampering with a phony democratic structure and the imposed production relationship based on feudalistic exploitation, in which the rights of the vast majority of Egypt's sons were lost? They had better consider the situation in most Third World countries which suffer from the evils of devastating seditions and bloody ordeals and are vulnerable to fragmentation under the brunt of these destructive tempests.

We have the right to ask, objectively and in good faith, what is meant by these false allegations and at this particular time? Is it the wish to create disorder, squander efforts, and waste our strength in an action that benefits no one, averts no harm, and prevents no evil? Is it not better and more appropriate for each one of us to perform his duties and obligations, now that full protection has been provided for his rights and interests? Is it not more beneficial and better for every Egyptian who cares about his homeland's good to do things which bring stability and ensure that the progress of national action continues, instead of dividing efforts, undermining the situation, upsetting priorities, and imposing erroneous choices on the masses?

There are a few words I would like to say on this point which are not in the written speech. When it was decided that I was going to make an official visit to the United Kingdom tomorrow, on 23 July, God willing, many questions were asked. Why is the president traveling on 23 July, when the revolution celebrations are held? Oh, are the celebrations held on 23 July? Since (?1967), we have been holding the celebrations on 22 July. It is the anniversary speech that I customarily make. I made this speech even when I was vice president. Perhaps from 1974 or 1975 until 1981 I used to deliver the revolution anniversary speech most of the time. After 1981 I began to deliver this speech myself—I did not even ask anyone else to deliver the 22 July speech on my behalf. They say I am going to England on the 23 July anniversary speech? I am on leave anyway on this day. What will I do on 23 July? I am leaving the country in the afternoon.

It is a curious thing to make an issue out of this. All right, what do you think of this? The queen of England has sent me a message congratulating me on the 23 July anniversary. What does she tell me in the message? She says: I am waiting for you in particular to participate in your 23 July celebrations. She is hosting a dinner banquet. She could have held the dinner on Wednesday [24 July]. Let us not try to deceive the masses. Let us remain realistic. Let us not make petty statements. Some say I am not patriotic. I am very patriotic. I am one of the revolution's sons. I understand it very well and wish to safeguard it and its achievements. [applause]

There is no need for beating around the bush. Some of them then came up with the claim that I do not properly observe the revolution. I do not understand where they get this talk. Are they laughing at the people? They say I cancelled the Evacuation Day holiday. Oh, really? If the anniversary is not marked by a day off and we cannot stay at home and sleep, is it not an anniversary? So far, I have not heard of a celebration marking Evacuation Day since the foreign forces were evacuated. A day off. They want to get up at 1100 or 1200 because this is justified by our enormous production output. The country is producing so much that I do not know what to do with it. Let me indeed give you a whole week off as a holiday.

I discovered that the [July anniversary] was on a Tuesday. I remember that the Evacuation Day holiday was on a Tuesday. In some departments employees had already taken Thursday, Friday, and Saturday as a holiday. Some people also took Sunday and Monday off for purported official business outside their workplaces. Actually, they did not conduct any such business. Tuesday is a holiday. On Wednesday and Thursday, they would take sick leave. They would take a vacation either in Alexandria or Cairo. For the sake of a Tuesday, they would take a whole week off. They do this as if production was sufficient and the citizens' interests properly handled. I said no. It is not necessary to have a day off in order to celebrate an anniversary. These people are upset because they are not having a day off. I said no. There are many anniversaries in the world and they tell you... [changes thought] Why not give a day off also on Woman's Day, Child's Day? Let us therefore take all days off and find someone to feed us and produce for us? The celebration is there.

It is true that on 18 June I said schools and universities will have a holiday. They will say the president said that the universities and schools are having a holiday. I know this. Do you think I do not know? I know. [applause] But I do not want state employees to take a day off. The citizens have business that must be attended to. Investments are under way, and the masses have many interests that must be attended to. If, for the sake of this Tuesday, every one takes five or six days off. [sentence as heard] Do you know how many days off we get? The world used to taunt us about this. So far we have 18 official holidays. The employees take some 30 days off around these holidays. Each one takes two or three days before the official holiday and finally he gets five or six around the one official day off. He shirks work and is not interested in production.

There are days off and there are anniversary celebrations. An anniversary does not necessarily mean a day off. Religious holidays are observed. The 23 July anniversary is observed. As for 25 April [anniversary of final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai], are we to mark an evacuation day for every one who comes and goes? Let us then also search for earlier historical evacuation anniversaries. Let us mark the anniversary and he who wants to celebrate, let him celebrate at his place of work. Let every production unit do what they do in the United States, the Soviet Union, and everywhere else. To us, however, marking an anniversary means a day off. How nice.

We used to celebrate the Suez day and the schools took a holiday on this day. We also had a holiday on victory day. We have 30 days of holidays and 30 days off—that is, two months—and one month annual leave. We do not work. How about giving you six months of leave and working only six months? We need hard work and production. [applause]

Some say that the president is selling the public sector. My God! [laughter] We will not sell the public sector. The Eastern bloc is selling the public sector from A to Z. We have very big establishments that we cannot touch. But we must develop their performance and management so that their production will be proportionate with their costs and capital. We must evaluate management and enhance these establishments. Of course, there is no need to check small shops, and the public sector must not deal in such small businesses. But we must get rid of the companies and small shops which opened in the governorates and cost 2 or 3 billion pounds. Some are taking compensation from these companies. We do not want these companies. The private sector must take in these establishments. As for the large public sector industries, such as the aluminium and the iron and steel plants in al-Mahallah and Kafr al-Dawwar, we must enhance their management, give them more freedom, and evaluate their performance. The public sector must not deal in small factories. Some people established a transportation company with only two minibuses, and 100 employees receive compensation from such a company. Of couse, such a project will lose. We will not sell the public sector. The world is developing and advancing, and we cannot afford to remain as we are. We must cope with international progress or else lag behind and have an uncertain future.

There is a great deal of work that must be completed in the comprehensive economic reform. Responsibility for this work is not confined to official and government establishments alone, but every citizen is required to bear his share of the burden. Every political or social group is required to offer any ideas or proposals they may have to improve economic performance. The government has drawn up a complete reform plan and exerted great efforts to reach a fair settlement to the debt problem that threatened to cripple the Egyptian economy inside and out.

Some complain about the sales tax and high prices. Prices abroad are rising. We are not living on an isolated island. We are forced to embark on this economic reform, otherwise the alternative would be very serious. You can see what is happening in other countries, socialist and nonsocialist. Do you want us to reach the state of affairs these countries did and then begin to cry? Why not start right now to bring about economic reforms. This is an inevitable necessity. I said in my 1 May speech that when we begin the economic reforms, there will be price changes. I agree with you that certain opportunists increased prices, and when the sales tax was announced, they imposed this tax on the goods they already had and before they had a copy of the sales tax. Citizens go shopping and buy. The citizens are responsible and should not pay higher prices, because the tax had not been explained nor gone into effect. Unless we progress with the economic reform as we are now—perhaps this year will be the most difficult of the economic reform—I will not tell you the result. You can see it and you have examples in many countries which I do not wish to name. You can see the situation. We are racing against time and not waiting until disaster falls. What is the cause of all these problems? It began in the forties. Was there an infrastructure in Egypt? Water, sewers, telephones, electricity, highways, and railways were all decrepit. Who would invest in Egypt given this situation? In 1974, foreign investors would come and try to telephone a certain number abroad and would have to wait for two or three weeks to get a call. They would then leave for Cyprus or elsewhere. They would then say it was useless to invest in Egypt.

We had to build the infrastructure. If we want a better future, we have to endure the hardships. There is no other way. We had to build telephone, electricity, and sewage networks.

Once someone said to me: Mr. President, let us finish one of these projects and give it good media coverage. Fair enough. We could focus on electricity. Now, how are we going to benefit from it if there are no houses, sewage, or factories? So, we will end up with idle facilities, which makes no economic sense.

We had to work on many projects simultaneously. Our railroads were in shambles. We had no more than 500,000 telephone lines. You all know that. You are not new to these problems. Of the 500,000 telephone lines we had, 300,000 were faulty. How many times did we use to dial before we would get through? Today we have 2.3 million lines. You can get through to any part of the world. Investors can call up for spare parts from abroad. They can do business that way.

We had to fix the water and sewage systems. The sewage systems in all governorates were in shambles and were a health hazard. All this has cost us much. Had we waited until now, the cost would have quadrupled.

For twenty years, before we started our development program, the government was the only investor. The private sector had no role. This is why the government could not find jobs for graduates. The government was committed to appointing all graduates in government service and public sector companies.

You remember when we used to force state-owned companies, such as Egypt Air and al-Mahallah Weaving Company, to employ graduates. Take these 5,000 graduates, we used to say to company managers. The latter would say: Please do not. We will lose money. We have enough workers. No, we would say, take them. Of course, the companies recorded losses.

The result of such policies was that the government departments became so huge that no amount of government revenue or taxes was sufficient to pay their expenses. This could not go on forever.

I once asked a foreign head of state—I will not mention his name. I said: How many government employees do you have? He said: Many. I said: How many? His country's population was equal, or maybe slightly larger, than ours. He said: I have 1.6 million employees, and they are draining all our public resources. He then asked me: How many do you have? Frankly, I was too embarrassed to tell him that we have more than 4 million. So, I said we have 2.5 million. What do I say? The difference was so great, and he was telling me he should cut down employment in his government to 600,000 or 700,000 at most. This is necessary if government resources are not to be exhausted. The government also has to spend on education and health, and it cannot afford to spend too much on salaries.

By the way, government salaries in 1981-82 totaled 1.8 billion pounds. Do you know how much they are now? They are 8.3 billion. I am just giving you an example.

These problems had to be confronted. Now we are creating jobs in the private sector for everyone. The goverment cannot take up this burden forever. If we kept dumping new graduates into government service, the government would either go bankrupt or have to increase taxes. The government will have to impose taxes to raise revenues for paying salaries. How else do you expect the government to increase its expenditures? The government revenues are known to all of you.

We have before us the major task of consolidating stability in the region and eliminating the causes of tension, violence, and despair. This requires us to redouble our current efforts to resume the peace process and start the peace conference negotiations in order to find an acceptable settlement of the Arab- Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue based on the principles of international legitimacy and the relevant UN resolutions. Now that all the Arab parties have taken a positive and constructive position that can open the way to negotiations, Israel must make up its mind and shoulder its responsibility by accepting the plan for a comprehensive peace settlement agreed on by the international community. It must refrain from taking actions that obstruct the peace process, in particular the settlement activity in the occupied Arab territory. [applause]

On this occasion, you may have heard of a proposal which I made—after studying the issue with my aides and reaching a decision on it—to declare an immediate halt to settlement building in exchange for ending the Arab boycott. This is a basic condition. I do not want to discuss the Arab boycott and whether it is really in force. I do not want to talk about this. Do you know the percentage of occupied territory where settlements have been built? There are settlements on 65 percent of the occupied land. They also want to build settlements for 240,000 Jews. If we wait two more years, all the occupied land will be covered by settlement, and there will be no more land for negotiations.

I made this proposal based on this premise. I said I believed that the Arab nation would accept this, and some countries agreed, while some others said: No, let us wait until peace is established, and the whole issue is resolved. As the saying goes: The donkey will die waiting for the fodder [Arabic proverb]. By that time all the territory will have been settled, and we will have endless complicated problems.

Another task before us is to formulate, with the fraternal Arab countries that, like us, wish to safeguard supreme pan-Arab interests, a method of making practical steps on the path of unified Arab action. This will bring the peoples closer, ensure the commonality of interests, and enable the Arab nation to deal with contemporary reality. The first aspect of this reality is the appearance of strong economic powers on the international scene. There is no way to keep up with these powers as long as the Arab world suffers division and fragmentation. We have no recourse but to confront these great responsibilities with firm and daring steps and with hearts that are full of faith and security. The Egyptian has never lagged behind the march of struggle and progress and never will. This noble people has never betrayed the trust of historic responsibility and never will. There is no alternative to collective action where the individual fuses with the group and every Egyptian merges with the entity of the great homeland. May God's mercy be on the revolution's pious leaders who are no longer alive and its pure martyrs who gave their lives so that Egypt could live. May God inspire the future generations of noble Egypt's sons to bear the torch of struggle and raise the banners of struggle for the sake of God and the homeland. May God grant us all success. Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be with you. [applause]

Mubarak Leaves on State Visit to UK

NC2307121091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for London this afternoon on a four-day "state visit" at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II. This is the first "state visit" by an Egyptian president to the UK.

President Mubarak, his wife, and his delegation were seen off at Cairo Airport by People's Assembly Speaker Ahmad Fathi Surur, Consultative Council Speaker Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, several deputy prime ministers and ministers, and the British charge d'affaires in Cairo and his wife.

An official delegation including Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, director of the presidential office, is accompanying President Mubarak on his visit.

During the visit, President Mubarak will hold important talks with Queen Elizabeth II of Britain, British Prime Minister John Major, and other senior British officials on current international and regional issues of mutual concern, notably the Middle East issue and the Palestinian question in light of the president's recent proposal to halt Israeli settlement building in return for ending the Arab boycott of Israel.

The talks President Mubarak and his delegation will hold in London will also deal with security arrangements in the Gulf aimed at establishing security and stability in that critical region and the need to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from the entire Middle East.

The president will also discuss ways of bolstering Egyptian-British ties in various spheres.

Commentary on 'Arab Peace Offensive'

NC2007152691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "How Will Israel Meet the Arab Peace Offensive?"]

[Text] Will U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's current tour of the Middle East succeed in bringing about an agreement on the much-needed peace conference? Will such success pave the way for a call to be made at the Bush-Gorbachev summit, which will be held in Moscow later this month, for the actual holding of the conference? Finally, what will happen if Israel fails to respond postively to the Arab peace plea?

These are the burning questions on the international scene and the subject of close scrutiny by political observers and analysts in light of the important developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict. One such development was Syria's positive response to the U.S. proposals. In addition, President Mubarak yesterday announced a new initiative, which was received with widespread international satisfaction. He said that if Israel stops building settlements, the Arabs would reconsider their boycott against it, a move aimed at building confidence between Arabs and Israelis and bringing about a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Arabs are coordinating their moves closely to ensure the success of the peace process. The Arab position has become unequivocal: The Arabs have shown their clear willingness to live in peace with Israel.

James Baker held successful talks with Syrian officials in Damascus two days ago and with President Mubarak in Alexandria yesterday. We believe that this well-orchestrated Arab endeavor can be called the new Arab offensive against Israel. The Arabs want to prevent Israel from maneuvering, raising obstacles, and stifling the peace efforts. The new Arab offensive against Israel, which began with Syria's positive response to the U.S. proposals, is of crucial importance on the international scene for the following reasons:

First, the timing of the Syrian response was particularly unsettling to the Israeli leaders, coming as it did just a short time before the leaders of the seven major industrialized nations met in London. The G-7 group strongly appealed to Israel to stop building settlements.

Second, the Syrian response came only a few days before the U.S.-USSR summit, which will necessarily address the Middle East problem, a serious and long-standing threat to world peace.

Third, the Syrian response deprived those who seek to distort the Arab position on peace of all their arguments. This is particularly true because Syria is a key party to the conflict. Furthermore, the Syrian response coincided with consultations among the main parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict; that is, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians. This underlines the fact that the Arab position is not a tactical move, but a principled stand formulated after careful examination of international and regional developments.

Fourth, the Arab moves come at a time when the international community is calling for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Iraqi regime in an effort to uphold international legitimacy and strengthen the UN role. Why is the same approach not taken toward Israel, particularly when the Arabs are calling for a just solution based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, a call Washington strongly supports?

In light of the above, James Baker has moved quickly to seize the current opportunity to revive the peace process and to strike while the iron is hot, to use President Mubarak's words.

It remains for Israel to define its position. Is it really willing to live in peace with its Arab neighbors? It is true that Israel has its own interpretation of the UN Security Council resolutions, but what matters now, as President Mubarak put it yesterday at his joint news conference with Baker, is starting the negotiations process. Mubarak said that the peace conference should meet under any name. The issue of Palestinian representation no longer poses an obstacle to the peace conference.

We await Israel's response to James Baker. Will it actually stop building settlements and meet the Arabs halfway? Will its rulers understand that peace is in their country's interest and worth the high cost? Or will it reject the Arab peace plea and bear responsibility, before the whole world and in history, for future events, as the Italian foreign minister said yesterday in Tunis? This will put Washington in an embarrasing position. The next few days will give us the answers to these questions.

Libya

'Popular War' Against Western 'Conspiracy' Urged

LD2007115891 Tripoli Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Editorial originally published in the "AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper", "published by the revolutionary committees," on 19 July: "Measuring By More Than One Standard"]

[Text] Iraq is being subjected today to new Western encroachment, by which the U.S. Administration strives to carve out a new world, with a single power, in which it will redraw the political map of the world in a way that serves its interests. The Arabs are the cornerstone of this conspiratorial plan, which is maturing and growing stronger with U.S. supplications and Zionist and Western blessings. By what right is Iraq being subjected today to the U.S. threats? Is it perhaps on the pretext that Iraq did not comply with Resolution 687, which provides for disclosure of all of Iraq's nuclear capabilities and industrial installations? We tell the world that it is more befitting of the Security Council to issue a resolution stripping the Zionist entity of the nuclear and atomic technology and weapons it possesses, with the aim of hitting at and terrorizing the Arab countries.

Iraq should not be the only one to be made to adhere to the resolutions of the United Nations and United Nations Security Council. We say: Why is there more than one standard of measuring international legitimacy, and why were UN resolutions applied to Iraq and not the Zionist entity? As the rule is an international one, why then is there discrimination in it, and why is more than one standard being used in the application of international legitimacy? The ban on the manufacturing of nuclear weapons should be applied to all. Where are the resolutions of the United Nations including those providing for the right of the Palestinian people to recover its land and to self-determination?

What is happening now is aimed at subjugating the Arabs to the so-called Israel, and to the achievement of the Zionist dream of dominating water sources in the region, from the Euphrates to the Nile, and from the Mediterranean to the sources of the Nile, the Euphrates and the Tigres.

Thus the revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, custodian of Arab pan-Arabism, warns the sons of the

Arab nation that the danger is hanging over their heads; that this terrorist operation taking place is one to which every Arab country will be subjected; and that the silence of the Arab countries in relation to what is happening will not save them from the punishment awaiting them. This conspiracy is targeted against the Arab nation, and there the West and America have found another cat's claw alongside Zionism: Turkey. They have been able to land with their vulgar capabilities in Turkey, and have found a name for those forces: the rapid deterrent force, whose visible number is estimated at 5000 soldiers equiped with the most advanced and accurate weapons, to reintervene at any moment.

They informed Iraq lately of the latest date for disclosing its nuclear installations: 25 July instant, in a clear and flagrant threat to the Iraqi people in assiduously humiliating the Arabs. The Americans found their chance during the meeting of the seven rich countries, held recently in London, to win the support of the industrialized countries for a new aggression against the Iraqi Arabs. They won the blank check from the English and French to participate in dealing the blow. The Zionists also boasted that they are ready to attack Iraq. The American calls are still rising in Western Europe to win greater support for the aggression, under the pretext of destroying those military positions that were not disclosed, as claimed by the U.S. Administration.

In the face of these facts, the Arabs have nothing left but to wage popular war to confront this conspiracy being hatched against this nation. The Arabs have no choice but unity to confront the U.S. Zionist attempt to corner Iraq and humiliate the Arabs.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Sudan's Salih Discuss Relations

LD2107214891 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] The brother leader this morning received brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, deputy prime minister, and interior minister. Brother al-Zubayr gave a statement to JANA's correspondent in which he said:

[Begin recording] I met the brother international leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting concerned the developing and progressing relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan. The meeting included issues of interest to the Arab nation and of interest to the two fraternal peoples in Sudan and the Jamahiriyah. The meeting was positive and fruitful, and fulfilled its aims. [end recording]

Brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih pointed out that during his visit to the great Jamahiriyah, he met the brother secretary of the General People's Committee, and they reviewed the meetings of the Supreme Committee for Libyan Arab-Sudanese integration, which were held in Surt town.

In his statement, brother al-Zubayr pointed out that the second meeting of the Libyan Arab-Sudanese Integration Committee will be held in Sudan this coming October.

The brother leader of the revolution last night received brother Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih.

Brother al-Zubayr witnessed a popular wedding.

Mauritania

Foreign Minister Meets Senegalese Counterpart

LD2007033391 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Hansi Ould Didi returned this evening to the capital, after a visit to Bissau in response to an invitation by his counterpart in Guinea-Bissau. During the visit, the minister also met his Senegalese counterpart. Hasni Ould Didi made a statement to our colleague Yadari Hasan, in which he said:

[Begin Ould Didi recording] There was a meeting between a delegation from Mauritania and another from Senegal led by the foreign ministers. The aim of the meeting was to devise the best ways to improve relations between the two countries.

At the meeting and in the negotiations, we focused on three principal points: The first point concerns security and stability in the border regions. The two sides [word indistinct] and pledged to redouble efforts to eliminate whatever may harm the security and stability of the citizen in daily life in the border region.

The second point concerns media campaigns and misleading propaganda, whether written or spoken. Naturally, we agreed that, in both countries, we shall refrain and prohibit the media from publishing or broadcasting anything that might harm ties between the countries or might cause a rift or estrangement between the two peoples and governments.

The third point concerns the return of possessions seized by the authorities during recent events. Naturally, this is a decision which we agreed on [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, the amount of compensation for the possessions which were lost, whether by looting or other means, will be studied,.

In order to realize the last two points, we agreed to set up a joint committee which will meet 22 July. It will devote itself to the study of two fields. It will branch out its work. [word indistinct] The arrangements and measures pertaining to the seized possessions, and the other branch will be concerned with the assessment of the possessions which were looted or lost. These three points were the axis of the talks. An Agreement on them was reached and signed. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Denies Border Agreement

LD2007205391 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] [Announcer] Senegalese-Mauritanian reconciliation is again at the heart of the news. This morning, at noon today, the Senegalese armed forces minister [Medoune Fall] told us that this reconciliation was due to the end of the deadlock on the issue of borders. Medoune Fall informed us that on the one hand Mauritania had accepted to discuss this issue, and to have the border either in the middle of the river [Senegal], or on the right bank of the river, and that in return, Senegal would accept to give up its customary cultivated lands on the right bank of the river in exchange for compensation.

This evening, Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hasni Ould Didi gave his reaction to Christophe Boisbouvier:

[begin recording] [Didi] I was surprised to hear—in an interview with RFI, things said about questions which have at no time been the subject of discussions between the two delegations in Bissau, particularly with regard to the so-called border problem or the problem of culivated lands. These questions have not been the subject of any exchange of views, and our position on the matter remains that as far as our country is concerned, the river is the natural border between the two countries which share the waters of this river.

[Boisbouvier] But Medoune Fall, the Senegalese armed forces minister, has declared that Mauritania is prepared to discuss this border question.

[Didi] Mauritania is not prepared to discuss it. Mauritania has not discussed it, and I believe this is clear enough. [end recording]

[Announcer] You have just heard statements by the Mauritanian foreign minister on reconciliation with Senegal. Didi, however, refuses any discussion on the border issue. As far as he is concerned, it is clear; this border is in the middle of the river. Now, with the full interview, is Chrostophe Boisbouvier. He first asked him if there was still a deadlock on this question.

[begin recording] [Didi] We did not at any time discuss this [border] problem, and we are not intending to do so, since we consider that there is no room for ambiguity over this issue.

[Boisbouvier] It means that the deadlock on the border question has not been ended, does it not?

[Didi] You are the one talking about ending the deadlock. The problems existing between the two countries are of a different nature.

[Boisbouvier] There is, however, a deadlock on this question, is there not? Senegal and you are in disagreement.

[Didi] Since Senegal and Mauritania have met, and decided to tackle problems which they regard as important problems, and since they have decided to resolve them, on the contrary. As far as I am concerned, I consider that a very major step has been made toward normalization. First, we have decided to take all the necessary measures so that security and stability prevail in the border regions. Progress has already been noticed. Second, we have decided that in the two countries the mass media—television, radio, and the press—will abstain from any campaign likely to harm relations between the two countries. Third, we have also decided to create a committee, which will meet next Monday in Paris, to examine, on the one hand, the return of the property confiscated by the two countries during the events [as heard], and on the other hand to examine the problem of property plundered or lost with a view to finding ways to pay compensation to the people who have been affected. These are the three questions which the two delegations regarded as sufficiently important as to constitute an obstacle to a normalization. They have decided to act in common accord. This, in my view, is a very important result.

[Boisouvier] When you talk about security on both banks of the river, does it mean that the border is going to be reopened shortly, and that the Rosso ferry will be operating again?

[Didi] It means that we will make sure that in no way will the territory of one country be used as a starting point for an act of violence directed against the other.

[Boisbouvier] In other words, the people crossing the river from either side will be subjected to stricter control?

[Didi] It means that from both sides we will stop those who would want to act and carry out acts of violence on the other side. As regards the reopening of the border, this cannot be envisaged while security does not prevail, and while a number of efforts have not been made toward helping the populations which have been stripped of their property.

[Boisbouvier] Medoune Fall told us that diplomatic relations will be restored, and the border reopened within one month. Do you agree?

[Didi] I met in Bissau with my colleague, Djibo Ka [Senegalese education minister], and we did not make such a decision. I can not give him an absolute date. I think that it will be an ineluctable result if the normalization process continues. But I reaffirm to you that no date has been agreed upon or discussed. [end recording]

[Announcer] Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hasni Ould Didi was interviewed by Christophe Boisbouvier.

Morocco

Fundamentalist Students Arrested in Clashes

LD2207224191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Morocco—At Casablanca University Medical School, 10 fundamentalist students have been arrested following clashes with security forces. The toll is 10 students injured. The rebels are calling for a boycott of final examinations and are above all demanding the release of their fellow students arrested earlier.

King Hassan II Interviewed

LD2107190691 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1704 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Interview with King Hassan II by French media representatives Edouard Sablier of VALEURS-ACTUELLES; Michele Cotta of TF-1; Marc Ullman of RTC; Francois d'Orcival of VALEURS-ACTUELLES; and Roger Bouzinac of NICE-MATIN at the Royal Palace in Skhirat on 20 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Cotta] Thank you for receiving us here in your Skhirat residence. We have, as you might guess, numerous questions to ask you, particularly on relations between Morocco and France obviously, and also on the rise of fundamentalism, on immigration, on the post-Gulf war, and the various peace initiatives. But if I may, I would like to start with a question which seems to me the most topical issue. On 20 June, Abdelmoumene Diouri, a Moroccan opponent, was taken by military force to the airport to be put on a plane for Gabon. This was done on the basis of an emergency procedure that has since been contested by the judiciary. Are you behind this expulsion and can we say that it was the king of Morocco who asked Mr. Diouri to leave France?

[Hassan] First of all, I will give you the reply of a jurist. The jurists say that without interest, there is no action. So, this person has been living in France for 20 years. Had I wanted his expulsion, I would have perhaps done it when the socialists were not in power. I never did and I do not think that I would have done it. Second, knowing that President Bongo had around him, within the framework of our fraternal cooperation, Moroccan bodyguards, and fearing that this person, for reasons known to France and not to Morocco, could be subjected to physical harm for which Morocco would have been blamed, I therefore insisted that my friend President Bongo be kind enough to send him back to France. I must add something else: In my opinion, this affair is a purely French recipe to which Moroccan garlic has been added. You have eaten it and it is we who smell.

[Cotta] Where is the Moroccan garlic, your majesty?

[Hassan] The Moroccan garlic is that for 20 years he has been tolerated in your country, he has written; is it only now that France realizes that what he writes is prejudicial to its friend, its old friend the king of Morocco?

[Cotta] It is perhaps just a mistake because the publication of the book had been announced...

[Hassan interrupting] Madam, I will not follow you in this spiral. I think that we have other topics to discuss that are much more important.

[d'Orcival] In other words majesty, you do not intend to dwell any further on the case of this man Diouri. As far as the French people are concerned, it is clear that they do not understand very well what happened. You have talked about a purely French recipe. What is the personality of this Mr. Diouri, and why did the French Government, in your view, have to take an emergency procedure?

[Hassan] I do not interfere at all in the affairs of the French Government. When the French Government offered him the right of asylum, they knew what they were doing. Since they allowed him to stay longer and extended his stay, the more plausible it became that he was accepted. Later, the interior minister gave the details and said that Diouri was in contact with foreign powers, that he was in contact with the Iraqis, the Libyans, and fundamentalists. Some even claimed that he had tried to smuggle arms into Algeria during the recent events, and so on. Personally, I do not want to pass judgment on this. The French judiciary decided that he could return and he did. Now if the French Government decides not to take legal action against him, that is one thing. The fact is that he faces legal action in Switzerland. LE POINT and L'EXPRESS have after all published a number of figures. I think that this person is not up to the standard of this encounter between the French public and myself, because it has been almost two years since we last said good morning to each other, the French and myself. So, I begin by saying to them good morning, and I hope that everything will go well. [passage omitted]

[Cotta] I think we should also ask you about human rights. You said, your majesty, that we could ask any questions, and that is what we are here to do. Do you have a particular fate for your opponents, and could this particular fate be of just concern to humanitarian movements of the world?

[Hassan] First, Madam, I do not have opponents in the strict sense of the word. The persons who are imprisoned are there by a court sentence. Some have been sentenced to life imprisonment. They include the Serfaty case, which I am sure you are going to talk to me about. I'll save you the trouble. He has been sentenced to life imprisonment, if you want his legal file, for planting bombs and complicity in planting bombs. The only way for him to leave prison is by royal pardon. As long as this gentleman does not admit that the Sahara is Moroccan, there will be no royal pardon for him. All the others have been released. But I must tell you that Mr. Serfaty has been sentenced by a court decision.

So, those who speak of human rights are calling the whole Moroccan system of justice into question, a system which has never yet harmed any French person, I think, when you have French people here, who divorce here, who marry here, who inherit here, who have court cases between tenants and landlords against Moroccans. No French person has ever complained of my judicial system. No foreigner. It is an insult to the Magistrature to believe that we do as we like with our justice.

[Cotta] Nevertheless, there is something that needs to be said about prison conditions perhaps, in particular a prison about which we have several eyewitness accounts, but which, according to your press releases, does not exist. So, does the Tazmamart penal colony exist or not?

[Hassan] Madam, the accounts are only worth as much as the witnesses. The main witness in this business is a person who has enjoyed and abused our hospitality. I have warned her that she will no longer have the right to set foot in Morocco.

[Cotta] Excuse me, to whom are you referring?

[Hasan] Mrs. Serfaty. [passage omitted]

[Cotta] So there are political prisoners in Morocco?

[Hassan] No. To say that part of the territory is not Moroccan is a crime against state security, and normally judged by a military tribunal. That's it.

[d'Orcival] So one can see that for you the problem of the Western Sahara is fundamental for Morocco. My question is this: In the business of human rights which we have just raised—a certain member of personalities have been quoted—and in the matter of the Western Sahara, Madame Mitterrand is playing a part. She heads a watchdog committee, she has given eyewitness accounts, and has adopted public positions. There is to be a debate next week in the Moroccan Parliament. What do you feel about this?

[Hassan] First, I do not like talking in general terms about women who occupy a certain protocol position, in particular when they are heads of state. But I must say that the problem of Madame Mitterrand only exists for me in the legal aspect. Because, however much I look at the French Constitution, including those of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Republics, I have always realized, as a lawyer, that the wife of the president is a morganatic wife. Here the two constitutions are close: the republic and the Moroccan contitutional monarchy.

So that is the problem. Really, it is a legal constitutional problem to do with a publicity seeker.

[Ullman] But you allow the Moroccan press to comment on this matter?

[Hassan] If I did not you would say it is not free.

[Ullman] The watchdog committee headed by Madame Mitterrand on the referendum in the Western Sahara to determine if it is to be Moroccan or independence—I imagine it seems superfluous to you [words indistinct].

[Hassan] I hope this watchdog committee does not make itself too ridiculous, because it is in danger of crashing into two walls. The first would be the day the referendum starts, when the United Nations says: Gentlemen of the committee, be so good as to mind your own business. The second obstacle that threatens to make it look ridiculous is that we are completely free to refuse it entry into Morocco.

Consider one thing—and I am saying this to a people with as long a history as the Moroccan people: my people have a history of 1,200 years. There is one thing that France never wanted, just as Morocco has never accepted: Morocco cannot be made a vassal, and never will be able to be.

[Ullman] That is not the idea of the watchdog committee.

[Hasan] No, no. Paternalism is a way...[changes thought] I am not arguing about this problem. I am telling you that this is a people like yours, an old one. France has never accepted being made into a vassal. Morocco will never accept being made into a vassal.

[Ullman] You have agreed to a referendum being held under UN auspices.

[Hassan] That is different. [passage omitted] That the United Nations should come in because it represents the power of the whole world—I will not accept that. That is quite normal, and it will not be the first time. But that a committee which represents no one but itself should come in is something else. I cannot go further into this explanation of international law.

[Ullman] Your Majesty, I think it is time now to ask you a direct question. In your opinion, after everything we have just said, what is the future for relations between our two countries?

[Hassan] You said two countries, did you not? I think that one does not change overnight, for futile and circumstantial reasons, relations which are age-old, because I believe that the first relations between our two countries do not date back just to the Alawites, my dynasty. If at the mechanical level some parts of the engine creak, this does not mean that the whole engine has to be changed. I think that the future between our two countries is destined for a common course but which is, I would perhaps say, slightly more frank and more decent. We cannot cooperate in our swimsuits or in our bikinis. We have to cooperate decently dressed. France dressed decently and Morocco dressed decently. A bit of decency and no indecent exposure.

[Cotta] Do you think that there is a French-Moroccan dispute, to be more precise a dispute between yourself and President Mitterrand, perhaps because of his wife?

[Hassan] First of all, I have had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Mitterrand only twice in my life. Once during an official dinner at the Elysee and once during a two or three-day visit here. Therefore, I have nothing against Mrs. Mitterrand, and it would be completely absurd to think that after 30 years of experience, 30 years of reign, and 20 years of schooling with the great boss, Mohamed V, that I would mix the main things with the secondary ones. With the president, things are going as they should.

[Sablier] Your Majesty, you grant such importance to the referendum [in the Western Sahara], and rightly so, but do you really think that the activities developed by Mrs. Mitterrand could exacerbate the French-Moroccan dispute, and do you regard it as a superficial and short-lived uneasiness or a serious crisis? That is, judging by what is published in the press, to the effect that some French elements were almost accused of hatching a plot against the stability of Morocco. On the other hand, you did send a message of sympathy to the president of the republic on 14 July. So, what is your position, and do you really think that there is a plot directed against the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Morocco?

[Hassan] No. It is not a plot which is directed against Morocco's sovereignty. It is, let us say, a number of measures which are looking for Morocco's Achilles heel, because cancer has been planted in black Africa, whether we like or not.

[Cotta] By whom?

[Hassan] I beg your pardon?

[Cotta] By whom?

[Hassan] Those who absolutely want to see multipartism established overnight, and elections organized outside clans or ethnic groups, although they know Africa perfectly well. The Africans could have been given that in small homeopathic doses. The fact is that those who want to see multipartyism in Africa do not realize that those who were in power, despite their shortcomings, were much better for France than those who will replace them, even if they were active in the opposition in France and not in their own countries, because at least you know the former. You do not know those who will come. Second, you are going to replace an ethnic group with an ethnic party. These are the dangers I referred to in my speech at La Baule [Francophone summit]. You do not seriously think that I am always going to indulge in small talk. I referred to that in my speech at La Baule. I think that it was the part with which people were the least pleased, even displeased, and with which my friend President Mitterrand was the least pleased. After all, friendship does not forbid one to have different ideas. There are different approaches.

[d'Orcival] If I understood well, with regard to Africa, you would be in favor of confederations based on the ethnic element.

[Hassan] No, no. I said that we should not proceed with such haste and such pressure. I still remember the president saying in his news conference at the end of the discussions that in fact we must know that the more democracy there is in the African countries, the more generous and warm France's aid will be. He repeated generous and warm twice. I consider that these are means of pressure which must be said in private to the heads of state. A medicine which should be administered by doses which are not huge. The fact is that they are huge doses. This is an attitude which I adopted officially at La Baule and which I continue to stick to.

[Bouzinac] Your Majesty, is it not the contrary? By giving homeopathic doses do we not risk on the contrary an all-out revolution? Does an orderly change not prevent all-out revolution? We have all seen what happened to the shah of Iran. There are examples which prove that by sticking to homeopathy, we end up with the worst.

[Hassan] Listen, since the Capetians and until now France has only used homeopathy, and this is what has made France what it is. The day when he [presumably Roberspierre] wanted to use the guillotine and terror, it was a catastophe.

[Bouzinac] No, I did not express myself properly.

[Hassan] So let us change the subject please.

[Bouzinac] The reform sometimes helps to avoid the revolution.

[Hassan] You are right.

[Bouzinac] Let us continue with relations between France and Morocco, and this time from another perspective, that of dispute.

France is Morocco's first partner. You have 600,000 Moroccans in France, we have 25,000 French people in Morocco. My question is how you see relations between the two countries, what can be done between them given that you know how far the problem of immigration in France is going to be, and is, central to the current debate, and will be so during the next months and years. I would like to ask you how you feel about this.

[Hassan] You know my opinion about this. First, immigration should not tend toward integration. If immigrants know that they could be integrated, if only out of interest (?or) social stability, their numbers will increase. Second, I think it is up to the French services, to French management, or any other organization, to prepare an inventory for three, four, or five years, of the number and quality of workers they would like to have in their territory. Let us discuss quotas.

[Bouzinac] You approve of that idea?

[Hassan] Of course, of course.

[Cotta] By profession and by country? By nationality?

[Hassan] By nationality and by profession. Then, we will come to an agreement. Say there are 50,000 people to go to France, I will be the first to sign an agreement with you, saying, gentlemen, please, those over 50,000, whether they are one or ten thousand, send them back to me. It is up to me—when I say me, it's up to us, their original families, to pressure outfits to find them work.

But to allow this busness to expand will lead us to something even more serious. We will learn to stop respecting each other. For the Moroccan has always been respected in Europe and in France, and he still is. The Moroccan worker is highly respected for his work. But when people talk of immigrants, he is put in the same boat. I don't want this linkage to happen, at least as far as Morocco is concerned.

So, fewer attractions, less encouragement, less material seduction, and a quota. [passage omitted]

[Cotta] But Your Majesty, those who are already in France, you can fully understand that you regard them as being a sort of elite of technicians and workers and managers who have left Morocco and who are leaving Morocco poorer. But as for those who are there, are you in favor of their being mosques under Moroccan influence, of there being Koranic schools under Moroccan influence; in other words, should there be a somewhat institutionalized Moroccan presence, as there is an Algerian presence in the Algerian community in France?

[Hassan] It is a problem I discussed nearly two years with Mr. Joxe when he was minister of the interior. We did not agree on that point because Minister Joxe at the time quoted Napoleonic law to me. I don't know from what year, but it said France was the guardian of all the cults practiced. He said to me, and I had no reply to give to him, he said to me: We are going to find the people needed to run the mosques and the Koranic schools from among the French Muslims. [passage omitted] I maintain that if we were left to act—in the framework of French legislation, in the framework of French public order, with respect for French laws and French society and hospitality—at least you would have no problems of extremism or religion with the Moroccans, I guarantee that.

[Cotta] Indeed, I wanted to speak about extremism. I think it is time to speak about that. The rise of extremism is very sensitive in a certain number of countries, not only in Morocco. You are also in a way the religious leader and so, in a way, you can block extremism.

[Hassan] That is how many people reproach us. Fortunately, let us say.

[Cotta] Do you fear in the end that extremism may develop in the immigrant community in France? That is my first question. The second question is: How are you going to imagine your relations with a neighboring country, Algeria, if extremism holds sway there in an even more severe way?

[Hassan] Madam, I would first like to clarify a question of dictionary meaning in a general way. There is fundamentalism and extremism. I am a fundamentalist. The Moroccans are fundamentalists. The extremists belong to the school of Khomeyni, and that is different. We are fundamentalists. The Algerians are fundamentalists: not all the Islamic Salvation Front are extremists, most are fundamentalists. [passage omitted] I can assure you that I know the Algerians. They are religious people who practice their faith. They are only asking to practice in the right framework. I think Algerian political leaders now understand that.

[Cotta] Have you discussed this with the Algerian president? Have you met him?

[Hassan] A lot, a lot.

[Cotta] And is he as reassured as you on this matter?

[Hassan] No, he said that it will take time but that he did not fear extremism that much; rather he feared bad management by the elected extremists. For him, this election, this manipulation of public affairs would put those people on the testing ground, and people would know at that time whether they were assimilated, accepted by the population or not.

[Bouzinac] Do you not think there is an international extremism which aims through violence to try and establish a theocratic state? That is the danger the president of the Tunisian Republic referred to a few days ago. Do you think there is...

[Hassan, interrupting] That movement does exist, that school does exist, it existed for a long time before the departure of Farukh. [passage omitted] But indeed, each decade a sort of extremism springs up. It is a recurrence. Like a recurring fever, it wants to be pan-Islamic. It does not date from today. [passage omitted] What is necessary is to have good leaders. That is why I think the Moroccans in France would prefer Moroccan imams rather than French people converted to Islam.

[Cotta] From that point of view, do you think the Iranian danger is still alive? How you do judge the current attempts by the French Government for rapprochement with the Iranian government?

[Hassan] The Iranian danger has lessened a lot. It has lessened a lot. The Iranian danger was...

[Cotta, interrupting] Limited to Khomeyni, or polarized on Khomeyni?

[Hassan] It was provoked by opposition to the shah and support for Khomeyni. But in my opinion that period has passed, even for generations. Before it was rather a gerontocracy. Iranian society resembled a bit what Russian society was like 10 years ago. It was the oldest people who governed. When one is younger one is more malleable, one is more flexible. It is certain that age has a big effect, above all, but at the religious level one is less stubborn. I think if Velayati has come to France, if he has indeed presented an invitation to the president to come to Iran, I think he is being sincere. Things have changed a lot.

[Cotta] In other words, your majesty, you feel today that as the Iranian danger has declined a lot, as Saudi money is no longer distributed to a certain number of fundamentalist movements, that movement is much less dangerous than it was and in particular in North Africa?

[Hassan] You know that in North Africa that movement has taken different forms. It has acted like chameleon which might have a tail of one color, but like a trichameleon, with a tail of one color in Tunisia, a central body of another color and a head in Morocco, or the other way around, in another color.

[Cotta] You put the head in Morocco?

[Hassan] Yes, but I said or the other way around.

[Ullman] Let us now turn to...

[Cotta, interrupting] No, I would first like to ask two other questions on immigration, coming back to that for a moment. My first question is: In his speech on 14 July, in his television interview on 14 July, the French president envisioned giving immigrants the right to vote. Following from what you say, are you hostile to such a local right to vote being given to immigrants in France for local elections? Are you hostile?

[Hassan] Always, I always have been.

[Cotta] Because of the failure of the assimilation that you would like?

[Hassan] Madam, let us be frank. Not only do I not want to hurt you, but I do not want to hurt those who will be watching us tomorrow. How can you assimilate people really equally when you call them beurs [French colloquial for second generation immigrants]? How can you? [passage omitted]

[Cotta] My second and last question on immigration, if you allow me: At a time when the economic situation in the Maghreb is not stable—and that is the least one can say—do you not fear that the difference between the rich and poor will, unfortunately, lead to emigration from the Maghreb to the richer countries, whatever decrees or laws are passed in France?

[Hassan] When you say that the Maghreb is not economically stable for the moment, that does not mean that we do not want to build it up in the future. Moreover, the future is going to prove me right, as Europe is going to support eastern Europe whether you will or not. At that moment, what will you do to clothe all those people, to feed all those people? You will be forced to revise your quotas, you will be forced to revise your customs problems, as the Common Market was made for 300 million inhabitants—it is now going to increase to 700 million who have nothing, not even people to do the accounts. A strategic retreat (?will be needed) or else the Europeans are going to turn to the Mediterranean. France is inevitably going to turn to the francophone countries south of the Mediterranean. We will expect you, since we know you will come that way: The train will come that way, the European train will come via North Africa.

[Cotta] On the contrary, your majesty, do you not also have the feeling that our allies in Africa, our friends in the Third World have asked themselves, are asking themselves, if they are not going to be the victims of what is going on in Europe, of the revolution that is happening in Europe, because we do not have enough money, enough resources to be able to clothe everybody, so that one is going to go to one's closest neighbors, and so others are not going to have the resources which we could bring them?

[Hassan [passage omitted] Thanks to God, all the countries south of the Sahara, compared with the countries of North Africa, have very small populations. That is the advantage they have. At the end of the century the Maghreb will have 100 million inhabitants. [passage omitted]

[Cotta] When you say that the train is going to come this way, what do you mean?

[Hassan] I think that Europe needs a strategic retreat. Already there is talk of the Four plus Five, that is Portugal, Spain, France, Italy plus the countries of the Maghreb. The multiplying effect will not be long in happening. We will have other countries of the Mediterranean who are going to begin saying: On the other side of the Mediterranean they have just discovered that there was something.

[Cotta] Indeed, what is your vision of this Mediterranean cooperation? First, of this Maghreban, common market, the Arab Maghreb Union, and its cooperation with the countries you cited, that is France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

[Hassan] First, it would be premature to speak about a Maghreban common market. That is our aim, but for that we must reach. We have reached a degree of intensive industrialization and agriculture likely to build this joint Maghreb economically, like Europe, which took the time necessary. Second, what is most important is that if you want development, you must have calm. I think there is a Mediterranean peace, but for the time being we should look first at the western Mediterranean. It is the least polluted, both politically and security-wise. From Italy to Portugal, as far as Europe is concerned, and from Libya to Morocco or Mauritania, the Mediterranean is not yet polluted. Let us ensure our security, let us consider ourselves as equal partners, let us respect the dignity of each other. [passage omitted]

[Cotta] And Morocco, is it a candidate for Europe?

[Hassan] Always, I have always reproached Hercules over his story of the pilars of Hercules, because I think that it is...[sentence unfinished as heard]

[Bouzinac] When you received me 10 years ago you expressed the hope of seeing cooperation established between Morocco, Spain, and France with a sort of axis between Rabat, Madrid, and Paris.

[Hassan] Yes.

[Bouzinac] The Rabat-Madrid axis seems to be working very well; the same is not true as far as Paris is concerned. Well, as Michele Cotta asked a short while ago, does this sort of absence of attraction between President Mitterrand and yourself...[changes thought] During that interview you told me that you called Valeriy Giscard d'Estaing my pal [copain]. Perhaps it would not occur to you to call Francois Mitterrand my pal?

[Hassan] I owe him the respect due his age, as he is not of the same generation as me.

[Bouzinac] Otherwise you would?

[Hassan] There are ways of treating someone without calling them pal, and you will not see these. Second, the famous axis about which you spoke was not my invention. [passage omitted] It was General de Gaulle who launched that idea.

[Cotta] [passage omitted] You sent a contingent, a reduced contingent but a contingent all the same, alongside the allied forces during the Gulf war. Do you have the impression that the Moroccan population understood you? With the retreat, do you think that you were right; and finally, has this ambiguity served you are harmed you?

[Hassan] First, I did not send my contingent to the Gulf, I sent it to Saudi Arabia in a bilateral framework—bilateral. As for the fact that some people were for or against this, I think that you are well placed to know that—you have a minister who resigned because of it. It is a matter of freedom of opinion. To tell you whether I have benefited from it or not: I have made long-term investments for my country.

[Cotta] Do you think that now with Iraq as it is, the problems of Israel which are not resolved, and the issues of the Americans' peace tour in the Middle East, in your opinion is progress being made toward a comprehensive peaceful solution, or are we still at the same point?

[Hassan] In my opinion it can only be peaceful.

[Cotta] But is progress being made toward that peaceful solution?

[Hassan] What?

[Cotta] Is progress being made toward that peaceful solution? Is the big peace conference for tomorrow?

[Hassan] I think, Madam, that in politics, when one thinks that everything is going very badly, in reality that is when things are beginning to clear. Politics is like the loop of the figure eight: one has to go through the crossover point in the middle to get to the other side.

[Cotta] So you think that the war against Iraq was this loop of the figure eight?

[Hassan] No, I am speaking about the current situation. In the Iraqi war, I always reproached President Saddam for his lack of moderation; if he had made a parallel between the UN resolutions concerning Iraq and those concerning Israel; if he had not linked, at the level of concommitance, the observance of the two; and if he had said: Well, I am saying that and I am withdrawing. He was the major winner in the fight but not as far as damage was concerned. In my opinion that was where he lacked moderation. I told him so several times before it happened.

[d'Orcival] But, sir, do you have the feeling today that he has been defeated because he was forced to withdraw from Kuwait; or that he has not, because he is still in power? Is there another defeated party in this conflict—Mr. Yasir 'Arafat?

[Hassan] It is difficult to say to you that someone is defeated or not. If you say to me: has the Iraqi Army been defeated, I would say to you, yes. Now for me, Saddam Husayn is not defeated, for as long as his people accept him. The Iraqi Army is beaten, the Iraqi infrastructure has been destroyed, but President Saddam Husayn is still there for the time being, and he is governing, he is running things.

[d'Orcival] A debate has just taken place—and not just a debate; it has become very urgent and very acute; it was obviously about the Iraqi nuclear installations.

[Hassan] Yes.

[d'Orcival] Thus, a UN mission went to the spot, and Iraq has been threatened with another bombardment if a factory of this type were discovered. Do you consider that no Arab country should possess a nuclear weapon?

[Hassan] I have said what I think of this and I shall repeat it. In this sphere there should not be two sets of standards, as nowadays the nuclear bomb is within reach of many people—naturally not the neutron bomb, but the dirty bomb is within the reach of everybody. One should not encourage do-it-yourself operations through a policy of indifference. These days one can easily knock out a nuclear bomb; it is dirty but it does harm. So, in my opinion, only a certain legality can prevent clandestine operations. One must not force the countries of the region to work clandestinely and to knock out bombs in a do-it-yourself way. They will do this without any discussion if there is not an end to this story.

[Ullman] What do you mean by an end?

[Hassan] What?

[Ullman] You said: if there is not an end to this story.

[Hassan] The region should be demilitarized on the nuclear level: that would be the first consequence of a great peace. I am not saying that I would myself set it as a sine qua non—that would mean one would not succeed. One only disarms when one is at peace.

[Ullman] Of course.

[Hassan] But it should be the first consequence of a comprehensive, economic, financial, human, and cultural peace. I have always thought that the Jewish genius and the Arab genius could have an extraordinary creativity.

[d'Orcival] What should one do in order for creativity to express itself, in particular in Jerusalem?

[Hassan] Well, one would have to find a fissionable substance which would produce a reaction. As far as I am concerned, I wish for that and I think that is the rule.

[Cotta] You did not reply on the future of the Palestinians and 'Arafat. Do you think that Yasir 'Arafat is now definitely embattled because of his position on Saddam Husayn, or do you think that there is still a chance for the Palestinians of Yasir 'Arafat?

[Hassan] I will not discuss my point of view with you. I will tell you what I have read and what I understand officially. It is certain that the Palestinians, given their fight, should not espouse other people's quarrels; now many Arab countries, with the exception of some which we know, many Arab countries—beginning with all the countries of the Gulf and then Syria, then Egypt—consider that Yasir 'Arafat put on his gloves for Iraq in an overly noisy and restless way. Thus, they consider that—well, I am telling you what they think—that he is perhaps not the person they would like to gather the Palestinians together, at any rate they shun him. It is certain that they are shunning him. God only knows how long this shunning is going to last.

[Cotta] But you are not shunning himself yourself?

[Hassan] No, he can come when he wants. [passage omitted] Well, I think we can conclude. I noted earlier on in the general drift of all your questions that there is one question which comes up all the time, and this concerns French-Moroccan relations. I do not want to cause ripples, but lately I have come to understand that a certain number of medium-sized French firms have been closing daily. [passage omitted] Well, in order to demonstrate clearly to you that we are looking far ahead beyond the current situation, why could they not come and settle here? Naturally, we would ask them to bring a few North African workers with them. This would allow the quantity to be reduced a bit. They would find the rest of their required workforce here. We could faciliate their installations and establishment through tax exemptions, naturally through the transfer of their profits and of their capital from the day they (?want) to depart. [passage omitted] I think that this is a human and economic affair that could wipe out many shadows and open up many horizons for us.

[Cotta] It is perhaps also a way of limiting the problems of immigration?

[Hassan] Exactly.

[Cotta] (?By going) in the other direction in a way.

[Hassan] As I have said to you, it would allow us to limit and allow you to have fewer. Above all it would allow us to conclude on an optimistic note as far as our joint future is concerned.

[Cotta] We thank you.

Sudan

Khalifah on Peace Program, Egyptian Relations

EA2207213591 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 22 July (SUNA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and head of the Department of Peace and Foreign Relations, has confirmed that the government is trying to achieve peace and has a program it is now implementing to achieve that peace. He said this yesterday when he met correspondents of foreign news agencies and newspapers. He added that the revolution's program will include the fair distribution of resources and participation in power.

He said revolutionary legitimacy will transfer [words indistinct] from July to provisional constitutional legitimacy when the constituent national conference is announced. The conference will embrace citizens selected by the RCC as a prelude to entering the stage of constitutional legitimacy. Thereafter, the people will elect their own representatives.

The revolution's aim is to decisively end the conflict that has persisted in Sudan due to the unfair distribution of power and resources. The revolution will achieve unity in diversity.

Referring to the Nigerian president's peace efforts and moves, Col. Khalifah said: We expect there will be a round of negotiations between the government and John Garang's movement. He pointed out that there is agreement on the need for national unity, the prevalence of freedom, and direct election of the president. Col. Khalifah said more than 800 members of Garang's movement have returned and surrendered to the Armed Forces.

He stressed that Sudan does not interfere in its neighbors' affairs and does not want to be the enemy of any state. He said: We wish Islamic countries would apply Islamic law, but we do not interfere in their affairs.

He said Sudan calls for clearing the Arab atmosphere because it is not in the interest of the Arab nation to be fragmented and not to be on speaking terms. Sudan extended its hand to all the states of the Gulf and Egypt to ask that a new page be opened. He referred to al-Qadhdhafi's efforts in this regard and stressed that there is no conflict between the Sudanese and Egyptian peoples.

His excellency called for lifting the blockade against Iraq and pointed out that the elimination of Iraqi but not

Israeli nuclear weapons is evidence of a policy of double standards. He called on the Arab nation to confront the plots being hatched against it. He stressed Sudan's principled stand against Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

RCC Member Welcomes Somali Accord

EA2207214691 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 22 July (SUNA)—Sudan has welcomed the declaration of the representatives of the Somali factions meeting in Djibouti, their adherence to the unity of Somalia, and their agreement to form a provisional government to work for the establishment of peace in all parts of Somalia. Major General al- Tijani Adam al-Tahir, Revolution Command Council member, stressed Sudan's respect for the will of peoples, particularly fraternal and friendly ones.

Sudan is determined to avoid interfering in the internal affairs of any country. He said Sudan's foreign policy has always been based on respect for the rights of neighbors and the will of peoples. Maj. Gen. al-Tijani, who was being interviewed by "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH", said Sudan's foreign policy can only be evaluated on the basis of the principles announced by the RCC and the conferences that have guided the organs implementing policies.

Khartoum Student Dies in Clash With Police

PM1907135891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jul 91 pp 1, 4

[Kamal Hamid report: "Student Killed in Clashes With Police at Khartoum University"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Events at Khartoum University developed rapidly yesterday following the killing of a student during the clashes between riot police and university students who staged a demonstration from the university building to the main street (al-Jami'ah Street) leading to the ministry buildings.

The clashes between police and students lasted 15 minutes, during which security forces used night sticks and tear gas, while students threw stones.

The student who was killed is Tariq Muhammad Ibrahim, a science faculty student originally from the Kusti area. He died from internal and external bleeding before reaching hospital.

Students say he was hit by a bullet, but the police categorically deny using bullets.

More students have assembled inside the university in preparation for further demonstrations to be staged during their colleague's funeral. Demonstrations have started to escalate inside the faculties, with the slogans: "Bullets will not deter us," and "The university is free; police out."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that there has been a considerable increase in arrests among students. [passage omitted]

A university student union member said that the students are protesting the security forces' entry into the university campus and the university administration's policy of eliminating the boarding system and the new housing system in force since last year.

No details have been published in Khartoum about events at Khartoum University over the past four days. [passage omitted]

Informed Sudanese sources in London have said that seven other students were wounded—two seriously—in the confrontation with the police.

The sources added that the security forces have arrested over 100 university students.

The sources pointed out that 50 people were arrested the night before last in the Wad Nubawi district following the demonstrations in Omdurman day before yesterday.

Sulayman Returns From Iran, Comments on Visit

EA1907195091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 19 July (SUNA)—RCC [Revolution Command Council] member and wali (governor) of Central State, Col Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, returned here today from Tehran concluding a three-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran during which he conveyed a message from RCC Chairman Gen 'Umar al-Bashir to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani dealing with bilateral ties.

Col Sulayman said in an arrival statement that he also had talks during the visit with Iranian officials covering all aspects of bilateral relations. He noted that the visit came in the context of contacts and consultations between Sudan and Iran on issues of mutual interest. The RCC member was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Army chief of staff, commerce and irrigation ministers, and officials of the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Sudan.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Receives PLO's Abu Mazin

LD1907212991 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry today, Foreign Minister Habib Benyahya received Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, in the presence of Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunis. The talks, which fall within the framework of fruitful consultations between Tunisia and the PLO, dealt with the latest developments concerning the Palestinian issue and current issues of common interest.

President Receives Italian Foreign Minister

LD1907205291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpt] In the presidential palace in Carthage today, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, in the presence of Habib Benyahya, minister of foreign affairs, Slaheddine Mbarek, Tunisian ambassasdor to Rome, and Claudio Moreno, Italian ambassador to Tunisia. De Michelis said in a statement after the meeting that his meeting with the president was important, cordial, and very positive, and had focused on putting bilateral relations within the framework of a strategic perspective of Italian-Tunisian partnership in the nineties, and also within a wider and more important framework of partnership between the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] countries on the one hand, and Europe, particularly its southern countries, on the other. [passage omitted]

De Michelis Supports PLO Peace Talks Role

LD2007042991 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis has said: We agree on the need to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that is acceptable to all and on the participation of all parties concerned in the international peace conference.

In reply to a question on the PLO's participation, de Michelis said: Without any ambiguity, it is clear that the PLO cannot be absent from this conference and its presence must be guaranteed in a mixed delegation.

Gianni de Michelis was also asked about Italy's opinion on the Arab Maghreb countries' request for the right to attend this conference. He replied: The framework of this conference must be broadened to encompass all the parties concerned and all the peace-loving forces, particularly the EC and the Arab Mahgreb Union.

The Italian minister left Tunisia this afternoon at the end of his 48-hour visit.

Finance Ministry Denies Dinar Devaluation Report

LD2007182791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Excerpt] JEUNE AFRIQUE magazine, in its latest issue, dated 17 July 1991, carried a news report stating that the Tunisian Government intends to devalue the Tunisian dinar in order to consolidate imports and attract tourists. When the Finance Ministry was approached regarding this issue, the ministry categorically denied the report. It pointed out that the Tunisian dinar has remained stable throughout the first half of 1991, while its recent drop in value against the U.S. dollar is due to the strength of the latter against all foreign currencies. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Defense Minister Stresses Continuing Iraqi Threat

PM2207130491 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 19 Jul 91 p 1

[Shawqi Mahmud report: "Defense Minister Tells AL-ANBA': Gulf and Arab Forces Will Remain in Kuwait"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpt] Kuwait—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has emphasized that the Iraqi threat will continue as long as the ruling clique in Iraq exists.

He said in an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA': Unless world states stand by what is right—by Kuwait—to deter the reckless Iraqi leadership, we will be unable to feel secure in our homes.

Regarding his expectations of an attack on Iraq by the coalition states if its regime fails to reveal its nuclear program and all its nuclear installations, the defense minister said: I expect anything as long as this Iraqi intransigence exists in such a manner. He added: I do not want to be absolutely definite about this, but I expect Iraq to lose a great deal as a result of this intransigence.

He pointed to the current presence in Kuwait of Arab Gulf forces and forces from Egypt and Syria. He said: With God's help, these forces will abide by certain agreements which have been coordinated.

Regarding his recent tour of a number of some Arab states and its link with the Damascus Declaration, the defense minister said: My tour was incomparably successful. I explained Kuwait's position to the leaders of the states which I visited and to Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad. They showed an understanding of Kuwait's security position, which they supported, and they emphasized their willingness to support Kuwait at any time. [passage omitted]

Military Official Urges 'Liquidation' of Saddam

LD2207120591 London KUNA in Arabic 1042 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 Jul (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti military official says in an interview published here today that the Iraqi threat remains as long as Saddam Husayn and his Ba'thist regime remain in power. He stressed the need for security arrangements in the Gulf region. Major General Jabir Khalid al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy chief of staff, in an interview with AL-WATAN, called for the Iraqi ruler's liquidation, saying that this is a must considering he would resort to suicidal operations regardless of the consequences. [passage omitted]

Statement Supports Current Mideast Peace Efforts

LD2207180891 London KUNA in Arabic 1554 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Jul (KUNA)—Today Kuwait stressed the importance of supporting the sincere and serious efforts aimed at finding a just and comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian problem and achieving peace and security in the region in a way that consolidates the new world order. Dari al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said that Kuwait is following with interest the endeavors and consultations taking place among the various parties to resolve the problems of the region in general and the Palestinian problem in particular. Kuwait wishes, in line with its principled stands, to stress its permanent stance of support for any sincere effort to reach real peace in the Middle East region.

In a statement reported by Kuwait radio today, al-'Uthman asserted that Kuwait supports any sincere effort for peace that will ensure justice and secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people within the framework of UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

He added: "Kuwait also stresses its support for the statements by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which he said that the continued establishment and construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories is a violation of international law and the UN resolutions and constitutes an obstacle to the current efforts being exerted to reach a just solution that will lead to peace in the Middle East."

Minister al-'Uthman said that Kuwait takes this opportunity to express its appreciation and support for the declared stand of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the good endeavors it is undertaking to reach a just solution that will bring about peace in the Middle East.

He added that Kuwait also praises the positive stand adopted by the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in agreeing to take part in a peace conference. Kuwait stresses the importance of supporting the sincere and serious efforts which are aimed at finding a just and comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian problem and ensuring security, peace, and stability in this vital region of the world in such a way as to contribute to the consolidation of the new world order and its orientations toward attaining world peace.

Defense Chief on Arms, Mine Clearing, Iraq

PM2207153091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Jul 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Jabir al-Khalid: Saddam and Israel Threaten Region"]

[Text] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Yesterday Staff Major General Jabir Khalid al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy chief of staff, emphasized that Kuwaiti-Egyptian military cooperation is being conducted within a framework of coordination and understanding. He announced that a deal has been concluded for the purchase of "Amun" and "Fahd" missiles and a quantity of light arms and ammunition from Egyptian weapons factories.

Staff Maj. Gen. Jabir said that the Egyptian forces are responding to Kuwaiti requests and that Kuwait's military capability is being developed in accordance with a long-term plan. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT the Kuwaiti deputy chief of staff pointed out that the "Kuwaiti Army, together with the mine-removing teams from friendly states, is currently concentrating its efforts on removing the explosives and mines left behind by the Iraqis." He pointed out that "the Kuwaiti forces are carrying out operations to remove mines from the towns." He added that "over 5,000 mines have been removed in one operation—which reflects the density of the minefields." He also said that "it will be a long time before Kuwait is totally cleared."

On the military conscription in force in Kuwait, he said that "every Kuwaiti is recruited to serve his country, and, if necessary, we will review the conscription law."

On the threats facing Kuwait in particular and the Gulf states in general, the deputy chief of staff said that "the Iraqi regime still poses a threat." He added that "Saddam will resort to launching reprisal operations, whatever that may cost him." He went on: "The Iraqi Ba'thist regime, first and foremost Saddam Husayn, must be toppled." He added that there is "another threat from Israel, which rejects peace." He said that "the present threats are directed against states' existing regimes."

$60 Million Loan Agreement Signed With Syria

LD2207133791 London KUNA in Arabic 1216 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Damascus, 22 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwait and Syria have signed a loan agreement on the basis of which Syria will receive 17,310,000 Kuwaiti dinars, or the equivalent of $60 million. The agreement was signed by the director of the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development, Badr al-Humaydi, for the Kuwaiti side; and by Minister [of State] for Planning [Affairs] Dr Sabah Baqjaji, for the Syrian side. [passage omitted]

The loan is for a period of 20 years, which includes a five-year grace period, and it will be repaid in 30 semi-annual installments at an interest rate of 3.5 percent. The Kuwaiti fund has provided Syria with various loans up to $365 million.

Finance Minister Comments on Budget Issues

LD2107145191 London KUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 21 July, KUNA—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan said that despite the difficult extraordinary circumstances which Kuwait is currently going through, the government has no intention of reducing the budget for the fiscal year 1991-92. He said that there will be no delay in issuing the draft budget for this year and that this will be done in September at the latest.

Minister al-Rawdan, who was speaking in an interview with the Kuwaiti AL-WATAN published here today, pointed out that the government is facing a big deficit in oil revenues, representing 92 percent of overall state revenue. He added that for this reason the government is borrowing from the international financial market to meet this deficit, as a decree-law has been issued which raises the minimum limit of the public loan from 3 billion dinars to 10 billion. He stressed that the borrowing program will be temporary and only required in this phase, owing to the country's need for foreign currencies to meet its commitments.

The Kuwaiti finance minister said that there are policies and general tendencies which the government will adopt during the current financial year, the most important aspect of which is the rationalization of expenditures and the attempt to squeeze spending by way of the best exploitation of incomes and to invest these in a manner that does not affect the standard of services. In this regard he pointed out that there is no intention of cutting government subsidies on food, health, and consumer goods. He said that final decisions will be issued this month or next month regarding the amalgamation of banks and that there is a detailed study being carried out now by the general investment authority on amalgamating or liquidating some of the financial establishments or companies. He said that there is a study on allowing foreign banks to operate in Kuwait, but he expressed the belief that it would be inappropriate in the short run to make a decision in this regard until a comprehensive gathering of all information and data concerning Kuwaiti banks and other financial establishments is carried out.

Saudi Arabia

Press Views U.S. Moves, al-Turabi 'Conspiracy'

LD2107135391 Riyadh SPA in English 1305 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Riyadh, July 21, SPA—Editorials of the Saudi Arabic dailies today tackled the current events in the region and the positive Saudi stance on them. 'UKAZ, published in Jeddah, said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its full support to the proposals made by

U.S. President George Bush before the Congress on the peace process in the Middle East. The kingdom's position stems from its constant concern for finding a just resolution for the Palestinian question and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The paper expressed hope that the current tour of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to region would help in pushing ahead the current peace efforts.

The Jeddah-based AL-MADINAH expressed dismay over visit of Dr. al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic Front in Sudan to Iraq and said the visit seemed to be a ring in a new conspiracy. The paper said if al-Turabi is a real Islamic activist, then why has he initiated such suspicious talks with the leader of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, who is well-known for his anti-Islamic behavior as proved by the crimes he committed against the arab and Islamic nations.

AL-BILAD, also published in Jeddah, enumerated the suspicious positions of al-Turabi including his frank support to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The paper said al-Turabi should better tackle problems of the Sudanese people instead of running after some dinars stained with the bloods of both Iraqi and Kuwaiti people.

The Dammam-based AL-YAWM cited the recent statements made by the U.S. defence secretary in which he said the U.S. may restore to a military action to enforce the Iraqi regime to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council.

The paper said if the Iraqi regime continues manipulations and tries to evade full implementations of these resolutions, particularly those concerning the Iraqi nuclear capabilities, then the door will be opened for an international military intervention to save the region and the entire world from the potential Iraqi use of mass destruction weapons.

Oil Minister Interviewed on Refinery Construction

OW2007214791 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir by unidentified NHK reporter; date, place not given]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with NHK, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Nazir said that Saudi Arabia hopes the relations of cooperation with Japan will be further strengthened in the future and expressed his strong enthusiasm for constructing oil refineries through forming joint ventures between the Saudi Government and Japanese oil companies.

[Begin Nazir recording, in English] We are interested in further enhancing our relations with Japan in the future. [end recording]

In the interview, the oil minister said: When I visited Japan last year, I offered the Japanese oil companies to make business inroads into Saudi Arabia in the oil refinery area through forming joint ventures. The Japanese oil companies accepted my offer, and final negotiations are under way between the Saudi Government and the Japanese oil companies. Saudi Arabia is also interested in forming joint venture businesses with the Japanese companies for oil sales. The two countries will long maintain their relations of economic cooperation built on their joint venture businesses. Thus, the Saudi oil minister expressed his strong enthusiasm for constructing oil refineries through forming joint ventures with Japanese oil companies.

Now Nippon Oil Company and Saudi Aramco, a state-run oil company in Saudi Arabia, plan to construct two oil refineries, each capable of refining 150,000 to 300,000 barrels of petroleum a day, in Japan and Saudi Arabia at a cost of a trillion yen. They will soon conduct a profitability survey.

Conflicting Reports on Unrest in al-Sulaymaniyah

Rebel Radio: Kurds in Control

NC2207161291 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Armed Kurds are patrolling al-Sulaymaniyah after they gained control of the town following two days of heavy fighting with the tyrant's troops. Dozens of people were killed as a result of the gruelling battles which resulted in the Kurds' recapturing the town from the tyrant's troops, into whose hands it had fallen after the March upheaval against the tyrant's regime. The governor of al- Sulaymaniyah [words indistinct] stated that the Kurds are inside the town and the tyrant's troops are outside.

Reports indicated that a joint force consisting of the tyrant's police and the Kurds has been set up to maintain security in the town, while Saddam's army has withdrawn to the town's southern outskirts. The reports added that the tyrant's troops are on a state of maximum alert along the al-Sulaymaniyah-Karkuk road and have been closing this road at night since the recent fighting broke out. The governor has announced that between 100 and 250 people were killed in the fighting, but other sources place the number of dead at 600 and the number of wounded at (?900).

Mas'ud Barzani, who is now in Baghdad, has accused groups opposed to the conclusion of any agreement between Saddam and the Kurds of being responsible for provoking the fighting.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] said yesterday that ICRC representatives have advised that the Kurdish armed men in al-Sulaymaniyah have captured 1,200 of the tyrant's troops.

Press Told of Iranian Attack

JN2207184091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah, 22 Jul (INA)—A delegation representing foreign television and radio networks, papers, and news agencies, that visited al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate yesterday, was briefed on the return to normalcy in this northern city and the people's resumption of their normal work.

The INA correspondent in al-Sulaymaniyah said that during a meeting with the delegation, the al-Sulaymaniyah governor briefed the delegation on the events of Thursday [18 July] in al-Sulamaniyah, which resulted in the deaths of a number of citizens following acts of subversion by groups that infiltrated the the city at the instructions of the Iranian regime.

The governor stressed that tranquillity and stability returned to the city the next day, thanks to cooperation between the state organs and the Kurdistan Front parties, which was based on the spirit of constant positive dialogue to bolster the principles of national unity and Iraq's unity in land and people. He pointed out that national unity and Arab-Kurdish brotherhood will remain stronger than any conspiracy against our homeland.

Iran Accused of Obstructing 'Democratic March'

JN2107095891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has accused Iran's rulers of working to obstruct Iraq's national dialogue and democratic march.

In its editorial today, the Defense Ministry organ says: The recent riots in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil raise anew the question about Iran's intentions and objectives behind its continued interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and its drift into the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracy despite all the concern and self-restraint which Iraq has shown in the hope that this regime would resort to logic, and turn over the chapters of the past.

The paper adds: It seems clear that with its flagrant interference in Iraq's affairs in such a subversive manner, the Iranian regime not only proceeds from a set policy based on hatred against Iraq and its people, and the evil desire to avenge its bitter defeat in the war, but also from the fact that it is part of the coalition which the U.S. is leading to implement its conspiracy against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses its accusation that Tehran is working to obstruct and abort the agreement to bolster the autonomy of our Kurdish people, and of trying to stop a return to normal life in northern Iraq, a return which would close all the doors before fabricated foreign—U.S. and Iranian—interference. To confirm the accusation, the paper cites what Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has revealed the day before yesterday to the effect that Iranian elements and other agents, who infiltrated the borders, were arrested in possession of large amounts of money which they planned to distribute to their agents inside Iraq. The paper says what the minister has revealed gives irrefutable evidence on the short-term objectives of the conspiracy which is being implemented by the Iranian regime.

The paper supports this evidence by the comment made by Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, on the events in those two cities when he said: There is an evil hand that tries to lay obstacles before the central government in its serious and constructive dialogue with leaders of the Kurdish parties front through parasite elements.

AL-QADISIYAH highlights the significance of the statement made by Mr. Barzani. It says the statement not only confirms the Iranian regime's involvement in this new subversive action, but also foils the wager of that regime on the possibility of influencing the dialogue on Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and obstructing the achievement of an agreement that would bolster Iraq's democratic march.

The newspaper draws the attention of Iran's rulers to the fact that by pursuing the policy of interfering in Iraq's affairs they are playing a bigger evil game than what they imagine. The paper warns that the Iranian people will be the victim of this game. Also, the paper adds, it will make it more difficult to normalize relations between these peoples and the people of Iraq.

Iranian Attempts To Disrupt Dialogue Alleged

JN2207100591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0612 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the recent riots in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil, which were organized and carried out by Iranian elements and other agents of Iran who infiltrated the borders, and the fabricated reports circulated by Tehran on so-called stumbling of the dialogue, clearly reflect the Iranian regime's position on the autonomy experiment in Iraq's Kurdistan.

In an article published here today, the paper says that the Tehran regime—which practices the ugliest forms of coercion, torture, and annihilation against the Kurdish people in Iran, and refuses to recognize any legitimate national and humanitarian rights of this people or any other people—since it assumed authority in Iran, stood against the autonomy experiment and regarded it as a danger that must be resisted, confronted, and disrupted.

The paper also says that it goes without saying that the Iranian regime would become enraged, employ all its capabilities, and play all its cards to torpedo the positive and successful dialogue which is approaching the final stage between the delegation of the Kurdistan parties front and the government in Baghdad. It also goes without saying that the Iranian regime would exhaust itself, and its elements and agents in disparate, futile, and exposed attempts to disrupt the agreement.

The paper explains that the strong coordination between the government authorities and the leaders of the Kurdistan parties front has succeeded in thwarting and containing the attempts of the Iranian regime to plant its agents to disrupt the agreement from attaining their evil objectives.

The paper notes that the treacherous Iranian regime, after having failed to disrupt the agreement, will redouble and intensify its disruptive attempts. It will employ all means and play all its cards to confront the autonomy march in Iraq and prevent its progress and development.

The paper concludes by saying that the Iranian disruptive endeavor, to delay the autonomy agreement, proves that the Iranian regime has not abandoned its old, futile political trend, and that it is still captive to this mentality, illusions, and practices whose great failure has been proven by the events and developments over more than 12 years.

French Aid Group Kept From Traveling to North

AU2307073191 Paris AFP in English 0050 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Paris, July 23 (AFP)—The Iraqi authorities prevented a team of French humanitarian workers from travelling to northern Iraq earlier this month to replace missions currently serving there, the group Medecins Du Monde (Doctors of the World) said here on Monday.

A team of nine doctors and nurses from the group waited 10 days in Baghdad but were unable to obtain authorization to go north to Iraqi Kurdistan and were finally forced to return to France, a spokesman said.

Medecins Du Monde said the Iraqi authorities had made it harder for the group's teams to travel to Iraq, with delays in the granting of visas by the Iraqi Embassy in Jordan.

Two of the group's envoys were kept from travelling to the south of Iraq for an evaluation mission earlier this month, and also had to return to France, the spokesman said.

Medecins Du Monde has three teams operation in Iraq, in the northern towns of Zakho, Ranya and Azadi.

Kurds' Barzani Allegedly Bans Anti-Saddam Moves

NC2307064591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Some Kurdish opposition parties have banned demonstrations by Kurds against Saddam and the Ba'th gang.

Kurdish opposition sources said Mas'ud Barzani, who continues negotiations with Saddam, has ordered his men in Kurdistan to ban any demonstration against Saddam in northern Iraq.

A Kurdish official told our radio that Barzani's ban may be a prelude to accepting one of Saddam's conditions for granting autonomy to the Kurds. The condition is that the Kurds help repress any Iraqi threatening the regime and fight all its enemies inside the country.

Jalal Talabani rejected this condition, while Barzani remained (?silent) about it.

The Kurdish official said that the Kurdistan Democratic Party, the second-largest Kurdish opposition partry, [word indistinct] political division [words indistinct] although other leaders withdrew from the negotiations.

Hammadi, Kurdish Party Head Barzani Hold Talks

Meet 21 Jul in Baghdad

JN2107171191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1607 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi received Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], today.

During the meeting, they reviewed the cordial atmosphere prevailing in the current dialogue in Baghdad on joint action to serve Iraq.

22 Jul Talks 'Cordial'

JN2207183491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—This evening, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi received Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK].

They held cordial talks on the great strides achieved through the dialogue between the leadership and representatives of the Kurdistan Front.

Ramadan Says Arabs To Confront 'Conspiracy'

JN1807143391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1257 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has declared that parties, professional unions, and popular organizations in the Arab homeland will double their efforts and activities and mobilize all the Arab masses with a view to confronting the huge conspiracy, the evil beginnings of which took the form of the aggression against Iraq.

During a meeting with a delegation of the Tunisian Workers Union [TWU] led by TWU Secretary General Kamal Sa'd [name as received], Ramadan added that the arrogance of the aggressors and their disclosures regarding their policy, which seeks to colonize the region politically and economically, to impose hegemony on Arab wealth, and to plunder it, will lend momentum to the masses' struggle against this colonialist policy.

Taha Yasin Ramadan went on to say that the Mother of Battles has consolidated pan-Arab awareness in the psyche of the Arab masses now that all the covers the enemies and their Arab agents attempted to use have been removed. He stated that victory will belong to the honorable mujahid Arabs who reject enslavement, subservience, and humiliation.

During another meeting today with a delegation of the Jordanian Workers Union led by 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Hajj Hasan, the vice president declared that the United States will fail when confronted with the vigilance of the sons of Mesopotamia and their determination to continue the process of building and reconstruction regardless of U.S. persistent to obstruct the march of renaissance and reconstruction in Iraq, using all the tools of conspiracy it has at hand. He added: The United States and its allies want the Arab nation to remain disunited so that they can carry out their colonialist plans and policies in this important part of the world because of the glorious history of this spot and its humane civilization, abundant wealth, and gigantic resources.

Taha Yasin Ramadan paid tribute to the Arab masses and Arab professional unions and popular organizations for the positions they have taken. He also praised their determination to confront the conspiracies of the Americans and their allies.

ALF Denounces U.S. 'Aggression' Against Iraq

JN2007174891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1614 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] affirmed that by leveling new threats against Iraq, the U.S. Administration is trying to distract attention from current plans in the region to solve the Palestine question in the American-Zionist way, with the help of their agents in the region.

In a statement issued today, the ALF announced its categorical rejection of President Bush's recent threats and his unjust, aggressive logic. It also stressed its total support for Iraq, which represents Arab rights, against the aggressive U.S. policy.

In its statement, the ALF called on the Arab masses and their institutions and political parties, as well as the free people of the world, to denounce and confront U.S. aggression and support Iraq to defend the Arab decision, will, and independence.

It also urged all international and regional bodies and organizations to end the aggression, which conflicts with the UN charters and human rights.

A responsible source at the ALF also said that all those who joined the alliance, that is hostile to Iraq, are trying to isolate the PLO and obtain more national and pan-Arab concessions for the Zionist enemy.

In a statement to INA, the source said that the ALF condemns all attempts to harm the Palestinian people's rights, that it will strongly confront conspiracies against their national and pan-Arab rights, and that it will make every effort to abort the arrangements made by Bush and Baker to place the Arab region under U.S.-Zionist domination.

'Observers' Expect al-Asad To Visit Israel

JN2007072291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—Political observers expect Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Israel at any time in the not-too-distant future.

In a news report, AL-QADISIYAH cites these analysts as saying that al-Asad will try to persuade the Tel Aviv government to abandon its conditions rejecting the presence of a representative for the UN secretary general at the expected negotiations between the two parties [not further identified]. They also think that during his talks in Israel, al-Asad will discuss improving bilateral coordination and areas of normalization under a cover of strict secrecy to avoid a repeat of what happened in the Arab region following al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem; despite the changes in the surrounding objective circumstances, particularly at the official level.

The observers explained that the recent position taken by the Syrian president and his recent acceptance of the U.S. President's proposals on negotiations with Israel is connected with guarantees al-Asad has received from the U.S. Administration to abort the Iraqi power, which constituted a factor for the balance of power in the region.

They stressed that the Syrian position that was recently exposed is in harmony with the U.S. strategy in the region—namely, that Washington wants the Middle East to become a group of countries that share their water resources and open their borders between them. From these repercussions, the observers concluded that the new international campaign led by Washington against Iraq with French influence, British encouragement, and Soviet silence, is aimed at creating the objective circumstances to pass the declared Syrian announcement on Israel and the acceptance of direct negotiations.

66 Iraqi, Arab Deportees Arrive From Kuwait

JN2107123691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Al-Basrah, 21 Jul (INA)—A new group of Iraqi and Arab citizens deported by the Kuwaiti authorities arrived in the Safwan border area in the al-Basrah Governorate today.

A responsible source at the International Committee of the Red Cross told INA that 66 Iraqi and Arab citizens were received from the Kuwaiti authorities in the al-'Abdali area, including 12 Iraqis, 26 Jordanians, two Sudanese, one Somali, and 25 stateless persons. He added that these citizens represent the fifth group of deportees. The number of those deported by the Kuwaiti authorities, he said, totals 1,500 Iraqi and Arab citizens.

The INA correspondent saw the marks of torture and beating on the bodies of deportees while they were being received by the Iraqi and Palestinian Red Crescent committees.

Rebels Reportedly Attack Army Transport Train

NC2107070291 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] An elite group of rebellious heroes intercepted an al-Basrah-al-Nasiriyah train transporting aggressive Ba'thist forces to the al-Ahwar area. They intercepted the train in the Karmashiyah region near al-Nasiriyah early one night in early July. The train was stopped and a violent battle ensued between the mercenary gunmen and the members of the rebellious group, during which a large number of Saddam's aggressive forces, including a number of commanders of various rank, were killed. Many enemy soldiers were seen fleeing and hiding in the area's dense swamps. The enemy train was destroyed after the rebels seized all the weapons and communications equipment they could carry. The rebels then returned safely to base.

Rebel Radio Claims Successful Jamming Evasion

NC2207163991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] The Voice of Iraqi Opposition has learned that the tyrant's information minister, Hamid Husayn Hammadi, has told a meeting attended by the tyrant's radio, television, and news agency cadres that security reports reveal that Iraqi citizens do not listen to the regime's radio or read its newspapers. The information minister said that a considerable percentage of Iraqis get their news from the Iraqi opposition radios and [words indistinct] because these radios are accurate and sincere.

The regime's authorities have made great efforts to install the most advanced jamming equipment to prevent the Iraqi opposition radios from reaching all Iraqi citizens. Our radio's powerful transmitter has thwarted the regime's plans, however.

Saddam Receives Cables on Revolution Anniversary

PLF Head Sends Congratulations

JN2007150491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1342 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a cable of congratulations from Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] secretary general, on the 23d anniversary of the great 17-30 July revolution. The cable says:

I am pleased to extend to you and, through you, to the militant political leadership, militant party leadership, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and to the great Iraqi people in my name and on behalf of my colleagues in the Central Committee and all the cadres, fighters, and strugglers of our PLF, the warmest congratulations, the sincerest militant greetings, and the noblest brotherly sentiments on this national and pan-Arab occasion. This anniversary, from the beginning, represented a major turning point in the political, social, economic, and scientific history of fraternal Iraq and in the Arab nation's contemporary history.

The meaning of this great event is now clearer than before as a result of clinging to principles and full sovereignty, insisting on reciprocal dealings in international relations, and sticking to justice and legitimacy in fateful Arab issues.

Hence, the nature of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression on the Arab nation has become clear through aggression against Iraq. All facts have proved that the United States harbored aggressive, premeditated intentions to strike Iraq, even though the recent developments did not take place. This aggression against Iraq and the subsequent destruction will not destroy the live conscience in Iraq and in the hearts of all the honest patriots and nationalists, and those struggling to enable the Arab nation to achieve progress and play its natural role in the history of humanity.

Zambia Notes 'Excellent Ties'

JN1907115191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda on the 23d anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution. The cable states:

Zambia is confident that the revolutionary people of Iraq will relentlessly continue their march behind your lively leadership and that the efforts which you have begun to rebuild your country following the Gulf War will be crowned with great success. Zambia has supported and will continue to support the Arab cause in the Middle East, particularly the Palestine question. We are more confident now than ever before that there can be no lasting peace in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from the occupied territories. In harmony with the excellent ties of fraternity that exist between Zambia and Iraq, we look forward to expanding cooperation between us for the benefit of our two countries and peoples. [passage omitted]

Protests Filed With UN Over U.S. Overflights

18 Sorties on 17-18 Jul

JN2007074991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] New York, 19 Jul (INA)—U.S. aircraft have again violated Iraqi airspace for provocation and surveillance purposes.

In a memorandum sent today to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that U.S. air activity inside Iraqi airspace on 17 and 18 July reached 18 sorties, divided among five formations, each with two aircraft, one formation of four aircraft, and four one-aircraft sorties. He said the hostile aircraft flew with a speed ranging between 600 to 720 km per hour at low and medium altitudes. He also said the flights were concentrated over the areas of Mosul, [word indistinct], and Dahuk.

23 Flights Alleged 18-19 Jul

JN2007153791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Iraq has once again protested U.S. violations of Iraqi airspace for provocation and surveillance purposes.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general today, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace on 18 and 19 July totalled 23 air sorties, made up of an 11 two-plane formations and one individual sortie.

He added that the enemy flights were concentrated over the areas of Mosul, Irbil, Dahuk, al-'Amadiyah, and Tall 'Afar, at a speeds of 700-900 km per hour and at low and medium altitudes.

19 Flights Charged 19-20 Jul

JN2107171791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft have once again violated Iraqi airspace for surveillance and provocation purposes.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace on 19 and 20 July totalled 19 air sorties, made up of two-plane formations. He added that the flights were concentrated over Mosul, Irbil, and Dahuk, at speeds of 600-700 km per hour and at altitudes of 4 to 5 km.

Six Flights Over Mosul, Dahuk

JN2207063291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft continued their violation of Iraqi airspace for surveillance and provocation purposes.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general today, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that the enemy American air activity in Iraqi airspace on 20 to 21 July totalled six air sorties distributed over three two-aircraft formations.

He added that the enemy flights were centered over Dahuk and northeast Mosul at speeds of 600-720 km per hour at medium altitudes.

20 Flights Alleged 21-22 Jul

JN2307110191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1012 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] New York, 23 Jul (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations over the U.S. warplanes' violation of Iraq's airspace with the objective of surveillance and harassment.

In a memorandum addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations explained that the total air activity inside Iraqi airspace for 21 and 22 July reached 20 air sorties divided over nine two-plane formations, and two individual sorties.

He added that the planes flew at speeds of 700-900 km per hour. The flights were concentrated over the regions north of Mosul and Dahuk, and north and west of Irbil at low and medium altitudes.

Shamir Interviewed on Negotiations With U.S.

TA2207183691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen at Binyene Ha'uma Conference Center in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, when will the Israeli Government's reply be given to Secretary of State Baker?

[Shamir] We are still awaiting several clarifications on still unresolved issues.

[Ronen] Such as Palestinian representation?

[Shamir] Yes, such as Palestinian representation. Afterward, we will hold consultations, make a decision, and give our answer.

[Ronen] Is it a matter of days?

[Shamir] I do not know; it depends on the time it takes for us to receive the clarifications.

[Ronen] Sir, what has happened? Has President al-Asad, who was the leader of Israel's enemies, changed his colors, since he is now prepared to meet with you, and perhaps you are also prepared to meet with him?

[Shamir] I have not heard anything about a meeting. You have to ask him what has happened to him. I cannot see into his heart and mind. It is a fact, however, that we are facing a change, perhaps only one of tactics, but certainly a change.

[Ronen] Do you not believe that change will lead to meaningful peace talks between us and Syria?

[Shamir] I hope that we will reach direct, bilateral talks with Syria.

[Ronen] In reference to the Palestinian issue we mentioned earlier, is there a U.S. commitment that Palestinian representation will come only from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip?

[Shamir] That is correct; that is our agreement with them.

[Ronen] To conclude, Mr. Prime Minister, do you expect, do you judge that in October, November, in the coming months, there will be a peace conference between Israel and the Arab states in Washington or some other place?

[Shamir] There might certainly be talks between us and the Arab world within the framework of peace negotiations.

[Ronen] The problem of UN representation, the procedural problems, such as the ongoing conference, will those be overcome?

[Shamir] There will always be problems that will have to be solved in one way or another, according to our best interests.

[Ronen] Will the coalition will remain intact?

[Shamir] That is a different problem. In Israel a government can survive when it has a coalition behind it.

Awaiting Clear U.S. Position

TA2207173691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has asked Secretary of State James Baker that the peace conference be convened in Washington. The Americans have suggested that the delegates to the conference be of ministerial level and that if subcommittees are formed, their chairmen be senior officials.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir has learned that Mr. Shamir reported those facts to the cabinet members in today's session. He noted that since the composition of the Palestinian delegation has not been clarified, the time has not yet come to convene the conference.

Answering a question by one minister who asked whether it would not be worthwhile to form a stand at the present moment, Mr. Shamir again said that there is no need to do that, as long as the U.S. stand is not known. Mr. Shamir added that Israel's stand concerning the Golan Heights and the continuation of the settlements is as clear as day.

'Issue Will Work' if No 'Hitch'

TA2307044291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not hear an explicit yes in his meetings in Jerusalem, but the prime minister's declarations in the wake of the visit indicate that this is the general trend. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated last night that he does not rule out peace talks between Israel and the Arab world in approximately three months. He posed some conditions, however, saying that Israel will reply to the United States only after it has received several clarifications on yet unresolved issues, such as the Palestinian representation to the talks.

Indeed, Israel is now awaiting the list of the Palestinians who will participate in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in a closed meeting last night with members of the NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset faction, the prime minister said that if there is no hitch over the list, the issue—so he said—will work. Here is Yo'el Nir's report:

As early as 10 days ago, in a meeting in Cairo with Israeli left- wingers, the Egyptian foreign minister and President Mubarak's aide said: We have met all your demands. As for the question of the Palestinians, the Egyptian officials said: They have no other choice; they will come.

Israel is now awaiting the list of the Palestinians. In a closed meeting last night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told NRP members: If there is no hitch on the question of the Palestinian list, the issue will work. Shamir added: Our demand is that the list should not include PLO members, but residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—excluding residents of East Jerusalem—and we should be able to live with their presence. Knowledgeable sources say that serious differences of opinion have emerged among the Palestinians, and many of them argue that in light of the fact that the Arab countries have met Israel's demands, they must follow in their footsteps or else miss the boat.

Meanwhile, the modalities of the regional conference have almost been formulated. The opening ceremony will be attended by seven foreign ministers: the foreign ministers of the two superpowers, and those of Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon, as well as the Netherlands foreign minister, representing the EC at a concomitant level [bedereg shel nilve]. A UN representative will also be in attendance.

Working teams will convene after the opening session. One will deal with Israel-Syria affairs; another with the affairs of Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians; the third with the affairs of Israel, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia; the fourth will deal with Israel-Lebanon affairs. A higher committee [va'adat 'al] will deal with regional issues, such as water and ecology problems.

Hence, as Minister Roni Milo stated in the Knesset yesterday, Israel would seem to be on the brink of a breakthrough in the peace process.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 23 July adds: "Israel will apprise General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, of all the specifics of the negotiations with Syria and Lebanon within the peace process. Senior military sources told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that within the next few days, Gen. Lahd will be briefed on all the ideas raised by the Syrians, the Lebanese, and the Americans with regard to arrangements in Lebanon."]

More on Palestinian Representation

TA2307080391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Excerpts] If there is no hitch over the composition of the Palestinian delegation, the issue will work, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated last night in a meeting with members of the NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset faction. The right-wing parties are awaiting developments and have so far refrained from making declarations about bolting the government. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

The possibility that Israel and the Arab countries may sit around the negotiating table within a few months in a regional conference and that Israel may further soften its positions have not yet provoked the right-wing parties to come out with statements about their red lines and about the possibility of their bolting the government. Tehiya and Moledet have spelled out their positions, but in the same breath added that they support the prime minister's moves. Both parties trust Yitzhaq Shamir with regard to the discussions on the land-for-peace formula. Likud officials estimate that in the event of an agreement about a peace process, Moledet may be the only party to quit the coalition. [passage omitted]

In his address to the NRP faction, Shamir did not mention the possibility that a UN observer may participate in the conference or that the latter may reconvene periodically. According to the prime minister, the Americans did not mention the issue of settlement in Baker's latest visit. As for the linkage between a halt to settlement and the lifting of the Arab boycott, the prime minister told his audience that this is the position of the Arabs, but not that of the Americans. [passage omitted]

Levi Finds Scowcroft Remarks 'A Bit Strange'

TA2307103891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] Secretary of State Baker's advisers who had remained in Jerusalem left Israel today. The advisers will probably be back with additional details regarding the Palestinian delegation, unless these are received through diplomatic channels. All contacts are taking place against the backdrop of National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft's declaration that Israel must give the United States an answer within a week. Foreign Minister David Levi today firmly rejected the ultimatum:

[Begin Levi recording] There is no ultimatum and no rift. Israel is not under any pressure. All the issues have been discussed with full understanding. We are expecting some clarifications promised us by the secretary of state. I do not see any obstacles. [end recording]

Levi said that Scowcroft's statements were a bit strange, as they are incompatible with President Bush's declared position.

Levi was speaking after a meeting with Bulgarian Foreign Minister Viktor Vulkov, who is currently visiting Israel. The two men signed cooperation agreements between their respective Foreign Ministries. The Bulgarian foreign minister said he was happy to be here just when Israel appears to be on the verge of a historic breakthrough.

[Begin Vulkov recording, in English] I believe firmly in the further development of the relations between the two countries, and I am using this opportunity to extend very cordial wishes for the best future of your people. Shalom. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Pazner Rebuts Scowcroft; Claims 'No Deadline'

TA2307074091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Reacting to U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft's remarks that the United States expects Israel's answer within a week, the prime minister's media adviser stated last night: Baker explicitly promised us that there is no deadline [last word in English] whatsoever. Political sources nevertheless emphasized that Israel has no intention of dragging its feet with regard to an answer, which will be issued as soon as clarifications are received about the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

This is the last obstacle on the way to the conference. If Israel receives satisfactory replies concerning the delegation, Shamir will give the conference the green light. The contacts between Secretary Baker's aides who stayed behind in Israel and senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry began last night. The question of the Palestinian representation featured in the meeting, but no progress was made. According to Israeli sources, the Americans do not yet have final answers concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

The U.S. team is also scheduled to formulate a document of guarantees, which will be handed over to Israel. The purpose of this document is to make sure that there is no deviation whatsoever from the UN representative's powers in the conference and to anchor all the understandings about the structure of the opening event in an official document.

Shamir Seeks To Be Sure of Arab Change of Heart

TA2307050491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says it is possible that peace talks with the Arab states could begin within three months. He was speaking after addressing the opening session of the Hadassah convention in Jerusalem last night—his first public statements since his meetings with Secretary of State Baker. The details from Tzvi Pantanowitz:

[Begin recording] [Pantanowitz] In his formal speech, the prime minister made no mention of a timetable. After seven wars, he said, Israel did not need to prove a devotion to peace. Now she wanted a comprehensive peace, expressed in a treaty, that would put an end to the conflict once and for all. For Israel it was a vital matter of existence, and she had to be absolutely sure that there had been a real change of heart among the Arabs.

[Shamir] For us, it is not enough that they have realized the United States is the paramount power today. We have to know if they have at the same time finally come to accept the reality of Israel's existence and they have moved peace rather than territory to the top of their agenda.

[Pantanowitz] On a possible change of attitude by Syria and readiness to talk peace, the prime minister had this to say:

[Shamir] We are told that the Syrians have changed their attitude toward the Western world and the United States. We are also told that Syria is willing to talk peace. We believe that the first proof of such a change would be a decision by Syria to open the gates and let the Jews of that country go. [applause]

[Pantanowitz] The prime minister said he remained optimistic that there would be a move toward peace. Afterwards he was questioned by reporters on the Syrian issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Shamir, your speech indicates that you do not really trust the Syrians and that they have to do more than what they have done so far. Is that accurate?

[Shamir] Well, of course you know we are at the beginning of a process, of a certain change in the attitudes of Syria. And it is normal that we would like to see proofs of a real change in their positions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Levi on 'Hopes' for Peace Conference

LD2207171191 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1600 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] One of the basic aspects of James Baker's mission is of course the Syrian position: Hafiz al-Asad has said yes to the Americans on the possible holding of a peace conference. For the first time since 1967 he has also accepted the idea of direct negotiations with Israel. The American side speaks of a revolutionary change in the Syrian position. This is also the analysis given by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi, who was questioned by Pierre Weil:

[Begin recording] [Levi] Given that Syria is changing its policy—it is prepared to have direct talks with Israel without any preconditions—I believe progress is being made.

[Weil] So you think that within a few weeks, people could meet again for a peace conference?

[Levi] One hopes so, at any rate it is our initiative and it was necessary to work and to work with great patience. We are having discussions with our friends, the Americans, and in the most frank way.

[Weil] It is a historic event which is going to happen there, then?

[Levi] Let us hope so. [end recording]

Sharon Wants Return to 'Point of Departure'

TA2307054991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Yo'el Nir—live]

[Text] [Nir] What are you warning against, Mr. Sharon?

[Sharon] Israel wants peace, we all want peace and direct negotiations with the Arab countries. We may attain that, but we must not get carried away prematurely. We must constantly bear in mind who the leaders of the Arab countries are. People such as Hafiz al-Asad, who purchase enormous quantities of weapons—Scud missiles, tanks, and aircraft—and manufacture chemical and biological weapons, are not leaders who intend to make peace. All the information in Israel's possession, both overt and covert, does not attest to any change whatsoever in the intentions and plans of the Arab countries, including Syria, vis-a-vis Israel.

[Nir] Nevertheless, Hafiz al-Asad is now prepared to enter direct negotiations without preconditions.

[Sharon] One had better remember what happened this past year. The United States is repeating in Damascus the tragic mistakes it made in Baghdad. Only a year ago, a week before the invasion of Kuwait, the U.S. ambassador met with the Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn and later reported to Mr. Baker about the mutual intentions of peace and friendship between the United States and Iraq which had come up in that conversation. A few days later, Saddam invaded Kuwait in a move that was totally at odds with the assessment of the U.S. State Department under Mr. Baker. The same Mr. Baker has just been to Damascus and met with Saddam Husayn's twin brother, the Syrian dictator, and now states that al-Asad is headed toward peace. It is a pity that the United States has not learned from its mistake in Baghdad, which led to a horrible war. In fact, it learned so little that it may now have to bomb Iraq once again. Israel cannot be asked to expose itself to the dangers experienced by Kuwait. Maybe it will end differently, at least that is what we hope, but what we are witnessing here may be part of a sophisticated Syrian- Arab ploy to cover up and conceal Syria's plans to acquire chemical and biological missiles.

[Nir] If so, what do you suggest? Do you propose to say no?

[Sharon] Not at all, that is not what I suggest. I am in favor of a peace process, and I expect to reach a peace process, to attain real peace. What I propose is to go back to the point of departure. With all due respect to everybody involved, I propose not to rely on reports about talks with Arabs, but to see action. In my opinion, the first action we should expect is a halt to the arms race.

There are other steps. Yesterday, the prime minister mentioned one such step which would attest to the Syrian intentions, and that is letting go thousands of Jews who are suffering in Damascus. One must remember that what was good for the development of relations between the United States and the USSR—an end to the arms race and the expectation of the beginning of some process of democratization featured prominently in their talks—applies to us just as much. We should not get carried away. We should definitely expect and hope, but put everything in the right proportions. The talk about a new world order notwithstanding, we must bear in mind that it is very hard to establish a new world order with people known to be murderous dictators.

[Nir] But that is all there is. Mr. Sharon, thank you very much and good morning.

Sees 'No Change' in Arab Positions

TA2207152291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said a short time ago that there has been no change, not even a slight one, in the Arab positions. Sharon added that if there has been a change, it is only in words and not in substance, which basically remains hatred.

The minister said that whoever talks about change should study the Syrian ports and see the large quantity of arms arriving there. Minister Sharon addressed a cornerstone-laying ceremony for a yeshiva in the settlement of Efrat.

Minister Sees Breakthrough in Peace Process

TA2207151591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo said in the Knesset a few minutes ago that we are on the eve of a breakthrough on negotiations with Syria. Dov Gilhar updates us on the Knesset debate:

The spirit of Israel's answer is obvious here in the Knesset. We are talking about an answer that still has no clauses or subclauses, but the spirit is clear—to say yes. Minister Milo rose in the plenum several hours after James Baker left Israel and said he has no doubts that Syria's agreement to direct negotiations with Israel is a revolutionary move. It is a major victory for Israel's policy, which holds: We are prepared for direct negotiations. Alignment Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom asked: Is a revolution also expected on our side? Minister Milo replied:

[Begin Milo recording] MK Merom, you consider yourself a member of an intelligent camp: Israeli intellectuals, the Israeli left. When I say on this platform that the

Syrian move to agree to direct negotiations is a revolutionary step, when I say that we are on the verge of a breakthrough to peace, can you not understand by yourself the answer to your question? Do you not understand by yourself the answer, that we will participate in direct negotiations with Syria, that we will make a breakthrough in this peace process, which is so important to us. When I said before that you will remain an outsider when we achieve peace, I do not think I could have said anything clearer on that issue. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 22 July adds: "In the Knesset debate on the Labor Party's motion of no confidence in the government, party Chairman Shim'on Peres surprisingly requested that the vote not be held today. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir adds that Peres asked that the vote be postponed until after the Israeli Government provides its final reply to the U.S. initiative. If the reply is positive, his party will withdraw the motion; if not, it will raise it again."]

Ben-Aharon on Issues With U.S.

TA2307071891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] We would like to know what is being discussed with the U.S. secretary of state's aides in Israel. Does the fact that we keep hearing about problems concerning the composition of the Palestinian representation mean that Israel and the United States have already reached an agreement on everything pertaining to the silent UN presence and the duration of the conference?

[Ben-Aharon] No, not exactly. I simply think your information is incomplete, but that is not surprising in view of the fact that we are dealing with a multitiered and complex issue. There is as yet no comprehensive agreement or agreement on any specific item in the overall picture. The overall picture involves the summoning of the regional opening, who will participate in it, who will speak in it and who will not, and the question of the UN observer. Then there is the question of what will be the status of this forum later on in the process. As may be recalled, we object to the participation of a UN observer and to the continuation of this regional encounter. Then there is a far more important question involving the bilateral negotiations between us and each of the Arab components: Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian delegation, and Lebanon. The ministerial committee, headed by the prime minister, discussed all these issues with the secretary of state yesterday morning. Later we, the advisers, discussed the matter with Secretary Baker's aides. We cannot yet give an answer simply because the general picture, as presented to us by the Americans, is not yet complete—and they explicitly affirm as much.

[Dan] If so, why does Mr. Shamir say that if the question of the Palestinian delegation is settled, the way will be paved to a peace conference?

[Ben-Aharon] Because this is one of the most serious obstacles along the way; however, one should not infer from this that all the other questions have already been settled.

[Zohar] In other words, Israel is not prepared to follow the salami method—I believe this is the term used in journalese—meaning that it does not want to proceed point by point, but wants to reach agreement on a variety of issues.

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, that is correct, because they are interrelated. The purpose of attending the conference is to be able to launch negotiations immediately afterward. These negotiations must be arranged beforehand, so that everyone knows with whom they will be sitting, so that, God forbid, we should not find ourselves sitting opposite delegates who are PLO men for all intents and purposes. The Americans do not want that either, but the Arabs the U.S. secretary of state has been meeting here would very much want to include the PLO, and this is one of the most serious obstacles on the way.

[Dan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, what should be expected in the next few weeks? How long do we actually need in order to decide on clear-cut answers?

[Ben-Aharon] We are working on it quite expeditiously. The Americans are in a rush, and it seems to me that this was reflected in General Scowcroft's remarks [that the United States expects Israel's answer within a week]. Scowcroft serves his masters, and he would apparently like to have this package all wrapped up and ready before the Bush-Gorbachev summit, so that the two leaders may be able to announce that the conference will begin on such and such a day of such and such a month. We asked the Americans not to rush us because there are weighty issues at stake, because these are matters of life and death to us. I would not risk an assessment about dates, but as far as we are concerned, I do not think anybody will claim that we are procrastinating and marking time.

[Dan] Could you tell us what is scheduled to happen in the field over the next few days? How will the dialogue with the Americans proceed?

[Zohar] What are we actually expecting from them? More clarifications from Syria or their own explanations?

[Ben-Aharon] Of all the points being discussed, the question of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is still in its initial stages. This stems from the complexity of the issue, King Husayn's hesitations, and the differences within the Palestinian camp. The Americans are urging both King Husayn and the Palestinians—almost aggressively, I would say—to reach an agreement, so that they may be able to present us with a delegation whose composition will be acceptable to us, as we have demanded from the outset. Then, we would be able to address the full picture—that is, the conference itself, its participants, and subsequent bilateral forums. I think that then, and only then, will the Israeli Government be called upon to decide whether to accept the entire package or not.

[Zohar] You mentioned Brent Scowcroft, the U.S. national security adviser. Does he serve his masters when he says—or so it seems to follow from his remarks—that the United States is making the $10 billion Israel has requested in loan guarantees contingent on the peace process?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, our people have known Brent Scowcroft for many years. He is a man who uses blunt language, and it seems to me that his boss is occasionally called upon to amend or tone down the bad impression caused by his statements. Therefore, his remarks should be seen within the broader context of the statements made by other people. Interpretations come cheap, but to get to the point: We have not heard the Americans mention any linkage. A linkage was established in the meeting of the industrialized countries in London, however, and we were outraged by it. We asked the Americans why they established such a linkage, which is outrageous and unfair.

I think we should say it loud and clear and not conceal it: This was a message meant to pressure Israel. Nevertheless, we adhered to our position and stated that the issue of settlement, of preventing Jews from settling in Eretz Yisra'el is out of the question. Now we are moving forward toward a peace process. If there is progress, I do not believe that U.S. senators and congressmen will raise obstacles or delay their approval of the loan guarantees we have requested.

[Dan] Could you give us a brief answer to the following question: Personally, do you believe there will ultimately be a conference?

[Ben-Aharon] I would be averse to making prophecies, because it is not totally up to us. There are a few partners, including some who do not have a democratic and free decisionmaking process. In some cases, the matter depends on one tyrant or an oligarchy of tyrants who have proven their lack of credibility on numerous occasions. Therefore, I would resist making prophecies. I would say there are developments in the field which give way to a certain measure of encouragement. We are talking about vital issues to Israel, its security and future, however, and that is why caution is called for.

[Zohar] I do not think one could be more diplomatic than that. Thank you very much, Yosi Ben-Aharon.

Minister Warns Against U.S. Economic Threats

TA2207130391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1122 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, by Roni Daniyel—live]

[Excerpts] [Daniyel] Does a yes to Baker mean no to having Tehiya in the government?

[Ne'eman] Yes to Baker is something very unclear: Which Baker? On which issue? As I see it now, in fact, there has been no change in Israel's position. Israel remains insistent on all of the issues that are called procedural but are also tied to substance, such as a one-time conference with no repetitions—with or without veto rights. There is no room for the United Nations, not even a deaf and dumb representative—no United Nations. Concerning the Palestinian delegation, we still maintain an absolute veto on anyone connected to the PLO, and there can be no East Jerusalem Arabs in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

As far as substance is concerned, the prime minister and Israel continue to say that the issue is not territories for peace; we oppose territories for peace. We have rejected all the talk about halting settlements. So, I do not know. If it is a yes to good things, I am all for it; but if it is a yes to bad things, no way. [passage omitted]

[Daniyel] Do you interpret Baker's remarks following his talks with the prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers to mean that Israel agrees, or that we are headed toward a crisis?

[Ne'eman] I do not know what the Americans intend to do. If they are sincere, there is no need for crises. Incidentally, I advised several of my American friends—and perhaps they should mention this to Secretary Baker—that Baker should not follow the example of Barker. There was a time when a certain General Barker was here, in 1946, and said that the way to hurt the Jews is through their pockets. Lately we were warned that we will not get the guarantees for construction loans if we do not stop the settlements and so on. Now, we are told that if we stop settlements, the Arab boycott will be lifted. Suddenly, everybody is aiming at our pockets. I would suggest that the United States not adopt such a Barker-type policy. [passage omitted]

[Daniyel] Do you see any threat to the life of the current Israeli Government?

[Ne'eman] I see no such threat at this time, but things may change, naturally.

[Daniyel] Thank you.

Palestinian Delegates to Peace Conference Named

TA2307083391 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Jul 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] The PLO and Jordan have already reached an understanding concerning the establishment and composition of a joint delegation to the peace conference. The announcement, as well as the PLO procedures to approve it, are being delayed for tactical reasons. Our correspondent has learned this from Israeli political sources. This understanding is shared by members of the Fatah mainstream, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's men in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian Communist Party. The list of names of the delegation members given to our correspondent does not include Faysal al-Husayni and Hannan 'Ashrawi, who until now attended the meetings with Secretary Baker.

Following is the list as it was given to 'AL HAMISHMAR: Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Ilyas Frayj, Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, Zuhayra Kamal, Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, Mahir al-Masri, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi, and Dr. Zakariyyah al-Agha. The PLO wants the delegation to include a single representative from the Palestinian diaspora who is not a member of the organization, but this has not yet been agreed upon, the sources said. According to them, al-Husayni is not on the list because the policy today is to avoid obstacles on the road to the conference. A way will be found to incorporate him in the process in the future. [passage omitted]

Arabic Paper Denies Report

TA2307143791 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 22 Jul 91 p1

[Text] AL-MANAR confirms that there is no basis to reports published by some Israeli newspapers about the names of the proposed Palestinian delegation that is to participate in the expected peace conference.

AL-MANAR has learned from senior Palestinian sources that the members of the Palestinian delegation will be announced, after which they will join a Jordanian delegation, which will have advisers, including some from Jerusalem. A list of nine names will be submitted to Washington so that three or five names may be selected. This list, however, will not be submitted before Israel's consent to the U.S. proposals.

Al-Husayni—East Jerusalem Representatives Needed

TA2207144191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has said that he and his friends made clear to James Baker that, as far as they are concerned, the noninclusion of representatives from East Jerusalem in the peace talks constitutes a red line.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the remarks were made at a news conference by al-Husayni and Ms. Hannan 'Ashrawi.

Reacting to statements of opposition made by several Palestinian organizations, al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi said that it is natural that the residents of the territories have various opinions.

'Ashrawi—Palestinians Must Choose Delegates

TA2307051291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Hannan 'Ashrawi, one of the three Palestinians who met Sunday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, says there cannot be a peace process without the Palestinians. Speaking at a news conference yesterday, 'Ashrawi indicated if the Palestinians could not choose their own representatives, they would not attend a Middle East peace conference.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] The twin-track approach—the famous or infamous twin-track approach—will not work if one track is not functioning, because there has to be coincidence, there has to be a merging of the tracks at many instances. And, at the same time, the basic cause, the basic issue that has to be dealt with if there is to be genuine peace, is the Palestinian question. If that is not going to be dealt with, then there can be no Arab-Israeli peace if the Palestinian issue is not resolved.

Number two: It is very clear that nobody can speak on behalf of the Palestinians, and therefore any Arab government which seeks to make any agreement, or to conclude any settlement with the Israelis, cannot do so on behalf of the Palestinians. There is still a certain amount of accountability in the Arab world. I do not believe any Arab leadership will be able to join a peace process which excludes the Palestinians. Not only will it be against the national ethos of the region and the people as a whole, but it will be impractical, because it will not be able to achieve results on central issues where stability and peace are concerned, which is the Palestinian issue. [end recording]

Commentaries Evaluate Recent Peace Moves

Baker Asked To Hold Egypt in Check

TA1907111591 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Jul 91 p 1

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "Mubarak Sticks it to Us"]

[Text] Yesterday Egyptian President Husni Mubarak totally justified the bad reputation he has among policymakers in Jerusalem. For many months, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi have been of the opinion that the Egyptian president is not playing a constructive role in the peace process. Instead of leading he is being led, and the general direction usually is Damascus.

His surprising statement about the need to include Palestinians "from outside the territories" in any Palestinian delegation infuriated even moderate policymakers and supplied precious ammunition to peace refuseniks in our midst.

Knowing that this issue once brought about the fall of an Israeli Government, Secretary of State James Baker has given repeated assurances that the question of Palestinians from outside the territories would be put off until the second phase of the negotiations and that the Arab countries and the Palestinians themselves agree to this.

Mubarak apparently felt the political noose tightening around Israel's neck, and this whetted his appetite. Thus, he showed the Israelis that either Baker is truly a fool or that there is really nobody to talk to, or both.

If Baker wants something to come of his labors, he must not only bring his influence to bear on Syria and Israel. He must also hold the great friend, Egypt, in check.

Shamir Urged To Say Yes to Baker

TA1907123691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 91 p B1

[Commentary by Poles: "The United States Will Not Tire"]

[Text] How is it that the tedious involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict has not come out of Bush and Baker's ears? After all, there are a myriad other issues to grip them, and as long as the military balance of power in the region does not change drastically to Israel's disadvantage, the chances of a war breaking out are very slim. Why, then, did James Baker decide to launch another round of talks in the Middle East capitals—his fifth tour in four months?

And something else to ponder: The architects of U.S. policy have often declared that they cannot force peace on this war-torn region, but then if the Middle East protagonists themselves do not want peace, no outside element—not even the United States—will be able to bring it about. The United States could, at best, nudge the parties into peace, but the decisions must be adopted in the capitals of the region, not outside it.

There is a contradiction between this assessment and U.S. diplomatic activity. We shall leave it for the United States to define its own function in this matter. Even if it does not wish to be portrayed as anything but a catalyst, it is in fact not giving up on its initiative. True, the United States is in no hurry to exhaust all its resources to bring the political process to a successful conclusion; and from time to time, it issues statements to the effect that if Israel, Syria, and the Palestinians (the PLO) are not prepared to compromise, then it can also call it quits and withdraw from this ungrateful effort. But despite all this talk, James Baker is not letting go. As far as we know, President George Bush supports him or even spurs him not to sever contact but to continue to seek the desired solution.

Some observers in Israel, oddly enough people who do not identify with the prime minister's policy, have recently stated their conviction that the Americans will really grow tired of the whole business. After four rounds of shuttles between the regional capitals, could the secretary of state overcome his personal frustration and go on the fifth shuttle? And if he returns from Jerusalem empty-handed again, would this not imply that he had in fact himself invited disappointment, leaving the prestige of the United States tarnished?

Indeed, a fanatic regard for their reputation does not burn bright in the breasts of the U.S. leaders; they leave this for smaller nations. The United States continues to show interest in muting the tension between Israel and the Arab countries, which have so far refused to follow in Egypt's footsteps. It accepts the opinion of all the Arabs that the 1.5 million Palestinians cannot be asked to continue to bear the yoke of Israeli occupation ad infinitum. The U.S. secretary of state can find time to handle this nagging question despite all the other issues to which he must devote his time. And the Americans have plenty of time.

If anyone in Jerusalem thought that foot-dragging stratagems would make the U.S. leadership abandon the process, he was wrong. The United States decided to describe the Syrian president's reply to the U.S. President's letter as positive, and immediately entrusted the secretary of state with the mission of spending some more days in Middle East capitals.

The visit to Jerusalem is scheduled to be shorter: Seven hours is considered sufficient. This frugality can be regarded as an affront, but it would be preferable to stay away from this temptation. It is conceivable that this time, Baker will ask for a clear-cut answer: Will Israel come to a Middle East peace conference, if invited—along with the other regional elements—by the presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union, or will it attempt to condition its acceptance on an invitation in accordance with conditions set forth in Yitzhaq Shamir's letter of reply to George Bush?

Baker will most certainly wish to hear a positive answer from the Palestinians with whom he is scheduled to meet within the scope of his seven-hour visit here. A positive Israeli reply will be important to him, however, and if he is not given one, he will be greatly disappointed.

Washington will not necessarily label such an epilogue to the visit as the secretary's personal failure; rather, it might be seen as one more proof of the Israeli prime minister's recalcitrance. Bush and Gorbachev can conceivably decide to send the invitations for the peace conference, hoping that, after he had once more demonstrated his stubbornness in his meeting with Baker, Yitzhaq Shamir would shy away from declaring that Israel cannot participate in it.

But even if they prefer to put off sending the invitations until a later date, the Americans will not give up on their initiative. The U.S. electorate, though it might force its representatives to approve government guarantees for bank loans so that Israel can house new immigrants, is not eager for the President and the secretary of state to be publicly portrayed as losers.

Yitzhaq Shamir will obviously try again to use the recipe which has not failed him over the past two years. He is not afraid of a rift between Washington and Jerusalem, as he is counting on the power of AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee], the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and the U.S. Jewish community at large. He views it as his personal mission to make sure no part of Eretz Yisra'el is taken away from the State of Israel. Tehiya's threats that it will quit the government if he accepts any UN presence in the conference, PLO participation "in one form or another," or the meeting of the conference at any date other than the opening session are very much to his liking.

Shamir's path is dangerous, though. Israel cannot afford to find itself in a state of alienation from its one single friend. The U.S. Administration has the power to make us feel the results of this alienation in areas where we desperately need to have the tightest relations with it. Shamir had therefore better be advised to say "yes" to Baker; Ge'ula Kohen should not be the prime minister's oracle.

Shamir's Choice—Saudis or Coalition

TA2107113191 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Jul 91 p 2

[Commentary by Gay Bekhor: "Dramatic Breakthrough"]

[Text] Today for the first time Secretary of State James Baker can point to a dramatic breakthrough in the treacherous road he has chosen to tread in a bid to attain a Middle East settlement. For the first time, the Arab side last night took an active step that would have been considered unimaginable until not too long ago. I call it active even if others may interpret the Saudi agreement to lift the boycott as a tactical move.

Such an official Saudi announcement constitutes another step by the Arab countries toward reconciliation to the idea of Israel's existence as an entity that cannot be eliminated and toward cooperation with it. To date Saudi Arabia has been the major Arab economic factor most zealous in its observance of the boycott of Israel aimed at finishing off the Zionist entity.

This is undoubtedly an achievement the secretary can be proud of. It also implies the apparent readiness of the Persian Gulf countries, Jordan, and probably also Syria, to follow in the footsteps of Egypt and Saudi Arabia in lifting the boycott.

But for the Israeli Government, this translates into unprecedented heavy pressure, with the settlement issue now turning into the focal point of the entire process. For reasons of coalition integrity, the rightist government insists on continuing settlement activity, notwithstanding the novelty in the Saudi declaration. This means that as of today, Yitzhaq Shamir has to choose between accepting the new Saudi-Egyptian challenge and continuing the process or immediately dissolving his government (willingly or not).

Reports on Future Status of Golan Heights

Shamir Said Sure of Sovereignty

TA2107112791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, told Golan Heights settlers that they must not worry about the future of that area even in the event the peace process is promoted with Syrian involvement.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a talk with Yehuda Volman, head of the Golan Heights regional council, Ben-Aharon said that there has been no breach in the prime minister's view on future Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and that he entertains no doubts on the matter.

The Golan lobby, comprising 40 Knesset members from various parties, is scheduled to convene at the Knesset tomorrow.

Knesset Members To Support Sovereignty

TA2307142591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Sixty-four Knesset members [MK's] have signed a document in which they promise that, during the negotiations with Syria on the permanent arrangements, they will support in the Knesset the demand that Israel maintain its sovereignty over the Golan Heights. This was reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

MK Yosi Sarid from the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] advised the leaders of the settlers on the Golan Heights not to believe the ministers and MK's who are currently spreading cheap promises that there will be no territorial concessions on the Golan Heights.

Doubling of Golan Population Planned

TA2107100791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jul 91 p A2

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Text] So far, 29 Jewish settlements have been set up on the Golan Heights: three urban centers, 15 moshavim, 10 kibbutzim, and one moshava. The Jewish population of the Golan currently numbers approximately 11,000. The largest Golan settlement is the urban center of Qatzrin, with 3,900 inhabitants. The last settlement established was the permanent site of Kanaf in the southern part of the Golan. One additional settlement is planned for the near future, but the government's and the Jewish Agency's plans involve the doubling of the population in most of the Golan settlements.

These plans set as their target the creation of additional jobs at a rate of 300 posts a year, increasing economic productivity by $5 million a year, and the absorption of approximately 500 families in each of the coming five years.

One new settlement is planned for the Golan Heights—Brukhim (500 persons). Newly established Kanaf is expected to have 100 inhabitants. Apart from these, the plans are only to expand existing settlements. The plans also call for enlarging farm lands.

The government defrays 80 percent of the costs. In terms of assistance to farming on the Golan alone, this amounts to between $20 and $30 million per annum. Industrial development will focus on two sites: the industrial district of Qatzrin, which currently offers jobs to 400 people, and a new industrial zone in Bney Yehuda, on the southern slopes of the Golan Heights. The industrial growth is expected to allow the absorption of some 300 families in the southern Golan over the next two years.

Another field that will be developed on the Golan is tourism, in which 400 people are currently employed in 10 central locations. To date, more than $10 million has been invested in those places. Still more money, to the tune of tens of millions of dollars, is planned for the further development of tourist sites.

The investments planned for roads on the Golan Heights amount to 5.5 million shekels. They include, among others, the paving of a road bypassing Ramat Magshimim and a road linking Kafr Naffakh and Wasit, plus the completion of work on the road going up to Mt. Hermon. Additionally, the existing Bailey bridges at Bnot Ya'aqov will be replaced by a concrete bridge at a cost of more than 20 million shekels.

Four New Settlements Within Two Months

TA2207054991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Four new settlements will be established on the Golan Heights within the next two months. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that two of the settlements will be in the northern Golan and have already received the approval of the ministerial committee on settlements. Construction is going on at all four sites, after an agreement was reached between the Finance and Housing Ministries.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 22 July carries a related report by correspondent Hayim Hecht, adding that "the settlements of Brukhim and Agmon, situated in the Jordan River Park, were approved by the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs a long time ago, and the local authorities are now taking action to implement the decision. In the very near future, two new settlements will be submitted to the ministerial committee for approval: Bet Tzayda—a temporary name—near Gamla; and Taufik, near Mevo Hama."]

Arens Visits South Lebanon; on Syrian Role

No U.S. Ultimatum

TA2307091291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has stated that Israel will not agree to any arrangement in Lebanon that will endanger the Galilee's security. Therefore, he sees no reason for concern on the part of the inhabitants of the security zone in south Lebanon.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the minister made these remarks this morning in Marj 'Uyun in a meeting with General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, to update him on the specifics of the proposals raised by Secretary Baker concerning future arrangements in Lebanon. The defense minister was accompanied by the deputy chief of staff and the commander of the Northern Command.

The defense minister added that the U.S. secretary of state did not give Israel an ultimatum setting a deadline for an answer. Arens said that the government is currently examining Baker's proposals and in due time—apparently soon—will issue its response.

More on Meeting With Lahd

TA2307105991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens sought to allay the fears of the Christians in south Lebanon today. He conferred in Marj 'Uyun with General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, and briefed him on Baker's proposals regarding future arrangements in Lebanon. Arens said Israel will not discuss Lebanon's future with Syria, but with the Lebanese Government directly. He added that Israel's reply will be given soon and that there has been no U.S. ultimatum setting a deadline. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from south Lebanon:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The defense minister did not say much this morning, but the message was contained in the photo opportunity his aides produced for Lebanese and other international television networks. Less than 24 hours after Baker's visit, the Israeli defense minister, the deputy chief of staff, and the commander of the Northern Command called on their Lebanese ally, Gen. Lahd, to brief him on the proposals Baker brought from Damascus and Beirut concerning arrangements in Lebanon.

The inhabitants of the security zone are terrified about political processes which might yank Israel out of the area and place Syrian intelligence personnel, disguised as Lebanese soldiers, at their doorsteps. As far as these Lebanese are concerned, Arens' appearance next to Gen. Lahd this morning was a timely dose of valium.

[Arens] They have nothing to worry about. First of all, we have not yet had any contacts with Syria. Moreover, the contacts with Syria, if they take place, will deal with the question of establishing peace relations between Israel and Syria, which is in no way related to security zones in south Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could Israel link an agreement on the Golan Heights to an agreement about the security zone?

[Arens] There is no connection whatsoever. If contacts take place, our relations with Lebanon will be discussed by the Israeli and Lebanese Governments.

[Hecht] Gen. Lahd knows that in any event, the process will be lengthy and very complicated. As far as this area is concerned, Lahd said, I will definitely have something to say. [passage omitted]

Minister Arens added that Israel is currently examining the reports brought by Baker. Baker is definitely very optimistic, Arens said, emphasizing that his optimism in no way represents a yoke around Israel's neck.

[Arens] If we talk about relations between Israel and the United States, which are friendly or even very friendly, there is no question of any ultimatum whatsoever. We will give our answer the moment we are ready to give it. I do not believe it will take a long time. [end recording]

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motion

TA2207190591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] This evening the Knesset defeated, by a large majority, a Citizens Rights Movement motion of no-confidence in the government because of its incompetence in the political sphere. The Labor Party chairman had announced earlier that his faction is postponing its motion.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that 52 coalition Knesset members [MK's] voted against the motion, 27 opposition MK's voted in favor of it, and 4 MK's abstained.

Weizman in 'Political Meetings' With Palestinians

TA1907113091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 91 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Top echelons in the defense establishment are extremely angry with Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, for instructing the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria to summon Palestinian personalities from the West Bank for political meetings with Knesset Member [MK] 'Ezer Weizman, which Rothschild also attended, without obtaining Defense Minister Moshe Arens' prior approval.

Last Thursday, Weizman and Rothschild came to the office of Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria. They met there with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Palestinian Journalists Association, who was recently released from administrative detention, and with Dr. Yasir 'Ubayd, deputy director of the Ramallah hospital, who is identified with the PLO. Abu-'Ayyash and 'Ubayd were invited to the Civil Administration offices separately and were not informed of the reason for the invitation. Weizman spoke to them in English, in the presence of Rothschild and Zohar, in a side room.

One of the notables who conferred with Weizman said that the MK told him that Israel must focus on peace with Syria and cede the Golan Heights and control over southern Lebanon. He added that Weizman also raised proposals regarding the size of the territories and that his interlocutors replied that they are afraid that any arrangement with Syria will come at the expense of the solution of the Palestinian problem. "The conversation with Weizman was good and was held in a pleasant atmosphere," he said.

According to the man, he understood that Weizman was raising ideas that might be included in a new peace plan. He added that the very presence of the coordinator of activities and the head of the Civil Administration led the Palestinian notables to assume that the messages that were relayed are acceptable to the defense establishment or at least to Rothschild.

After the meeting, Weizman, Rothschild, and Zohar drove to Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj's home. The men discussed various issues related to the peace process. Asked about the meeting last night, Frayj refused to divulge details and only said that "it was positive." He claimed that he is prepared to discuss the peace process with everyone and that it should be remembered that Weizman was one of the architects of peace with Egypt.

Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, said last night in reaction: "The defense minister allowed members of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria to organize a tour of the West Bank for Weizman, but the meetings between the MK and the Palestinian personalities—following coordination with the coordinator of activities in the territories and in his presence—were not brought to Arens for approval."

MK Weizman said last night: "A tour of the West Bank Civil Administration was organized for me. As part of it, Gen. Dani Rothschild arranged for me to meet with the three Palestinian figures. This did not come at my initiative; rather, Rothschild initiated and arranged the meetings. In our talks, I detailed my position regarding the peace process, Egypt, Syria, and the Golan Heights, but I am not drafting any new political plan." The coordinator of activities announced last night, through his spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Hanan Rubin, that he refuses to comment on the issue.

A senior defense establishment source said yesterday: "The whole affair is inexplicable. 'Ezer Weizman can, by simply picking up the phone, arrange any meeting with any Palestinian personality he would like to talk to. I do not understand why Gen. Rothschild had to arrange the meetings, which Weizman claims he never sought."

Civil Administration sources also criticized the coordinator of activities: "Rothschild forced the Civil Administration head to coordinate the meetings behind Arens' back. These were meetings with Palestinian personalities who are considered intifadah leaders."

Police Recommend Charges Against Minister Der'i

TA2307042691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Police have recommended that charges be brought against Interior Minister Arye Der'i. Qol Yisra'el's police reporter Moshe Nussbaum says the minister is suspected of receiving favors from the leaders of a religious nonprofit organization wanting to settle ultraorthodox people in the al-Nabi Samu'il area in north Jerusalem.

The police investigation of Der'i is complete, except in one case: a charge that he violated the Capital Gains Tax Law in purchasing his residential apartment.

King Discusses Democracy During Cabinet Session

JN2107070691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening visited the Prime Ministry and chaired part of the Council of Ministers' session that was held this evening. His majesty reviewed the facts related to the political phase which the Arab region has passed and is passing through, and the developments and current realities in the region. He stressed the principles governing the Jordanian policy and its bases and said that Jordan has done all it could for the sake of what it believed in toward the one Arab homeland so that Jordan can become a source of light in the Arab homeland instead of being on the receiving end, especially since we offer in our political action a model for liberty, democracy, and pluralism.

His majesty also affirmed concern for the democratic march and the need to avoid a misinterpretation of democracy, which is still young. He also said we must be open to the world—in our beliefs and distinguished national and pan-Arab action—on solid bases and ground.

His majesty said that responsibility does not mean rest. Rather, he added, responsibility is a duty and an honor fulfilled by men who realize their responsibility because one cannot merely turn his back on responsibility and avoid difficulties instead of confronting them for the sake of the next generations so that they can judge us favorably.

His majesty added that we struggled for the sake of the Palestine question so that the Palestinian people can regain their rights on their national soil. He said: We have inherited this position from our forefathers. Everything that affected this cause on the level of people and land has affected us, and still affects us, more than anyone else.

His majesty said: We must proceed from what we have believed, and still believe in. We must also protect what we believe in against any tampering. This government came in the light of the freedom and spirit of the charter. Our larger family will flourish with its understanding, realization, and debating of events and the effects. We are certain that we will set the example for others.

His majesty stressed the need to concentrate on the individual and his qualifications, which must be polished in the coming phases, and the need to prepare that individual to confront the challenges, shoulder the responsibilities, and show readiness to fulfill the duties to preserve Jordan's credibility and keep our heads high. He said change should be toward the better through the indispensable participation in decisionmaking and showing concern for rendering success to the democratic experience.

Commentaries View Possible End to Arab Boycott

Israel Should Not Be Rewarded

JN2107083891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jul 91 p 1

[Unattributed editorial: "Yes, the Ball is in the Israeli Court"]

[Text] Finally, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was forced to admit that the ball is in the Israeli court, and that Tel Aviv's rulers should respond to the efforts toward a peaceful settlement. Baker was also forced to admit that the road to a settlement is facing difficulties caused by Israel's obstinate and hardline position.

Baker has admitted receiving a remarkable response from the Palestinian and Arab side during his visit to Damascus and Cairo in the course of his current fifth tour of the region. Baker believes that the responsive Arab stance toward the U.S. proposals will push forward the peace process while the Israeli position is still stagnant.

It is to be noted that the talks Baker had in Cairo focused on ending the Arab boycott of Israel in return for stopping the construction of Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories. This is a trend that should be carefully considered and seriously contemplated. Israel should not be rewarded for every step it takes in response to the demands that it should abide by the international legitimacy.

Construction of settlements entirely contravenes the Security Council resolutions and the international community's will and is a defiance of international charters and norms. In all cases, Israel should not be rewarded for demonstrating commitment [to the Security Council resolutions] and stopping the building of more settlements. Anyhow, Baker has found an entirely open road toward reaching a peaceful settlement in the Arab capitals he visited during his current tour and found no obstacles worth mentioning. However, in Israel Baker will find reasons for disappointment that might eliminate much of his optimism, unless he has some means to apply pressure on Shamir's government or at least hint at such pressure.

Through the possible U.S. reaction to the talks Baker will have in Israel, the seriousness of the U.S. stand, or the lack of it, toward the peace process could be determined.

There is a call for forging coordination among the Arab parties concerned with the conflict in order to engage in the settlement negotations with a unified position. This call is positive and is worth considering provided this coordination is based on adherence to the international legitimacy and the principle of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Occupation Must End First

JN2307083091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Jul 91 pp 1, 24

[Unattributed editorial: "Canceling Boycott for Canceling Settlements"]

[Text] The construction of Israeli colonies in the occupied Arab territories constitutes a direct aggression on both the territories and their people as well as international legitimacy. In contrast, the Arab boycott of the Zionist enemy is a right of national and pan-Arab sovereignty, and a duty that should be carried out and maintained until the termination of the Israeli occupation of every inch of Arab land, the realization of a comprehensive and just settlement, and the establishment of a real peace in this region.

The Jordanian position toward these two issues is very clear. It says that trading the boycott with a halt to the construction of settlements or halting the construction of settlements in exchange for lifting the boycott are two issues that are linked to the dynamics of the situation and cannot be isolated from the basic task of any political effort, which is the realization of a just and comprehensive settlement based on international legitimacy and the exchange of land for peace. Halting the construction of settlements does not end an ongoing flagrant aggression against the Arab territories and their inhabitants, and against the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy. The settlements built so far clearly emphasize the Zionist expansionist policy which wants both Arab land and Arab surrender. Lifting the boycott would end and abrogate a national and pan-Arab right to which we must continue to adhere until a comprehensive and just settlement is reached and the Arabs restore all their rights. The Arab boycott will then become unimportant and all the Zionist settlements will be removed.

Even if the proposal aims at reaching a comprehensive settlement through reciprocal steps and concessions between the Arabs and the Israelis, we believe that halting the construction of settlements, removing those already built, and returning every inch of confiscated land to the Palestinians are the least that could be accepted in return for lifting the Arab boycott. This is a deal which can be expected only within the framework of a comprehensive settlement that is based on international legitimacy, the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, and the complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. These cannot be realized before working out the dynamics of the situation and embarking on political movement toward a just and comprehensive settlement based on international legitimacy under which the United States and the industrialized West are now moving to continue the destruction of Iraq, the slaughter of the Iraqis, and the humiliation of the homeland and nation.

Ending Boycott 'Sovereign Decision'

JN2307091591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Jul 91 p 26

["An Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "Ending the Boycott of Israel, But Maintaining it Among the Arabs Themselves"]

[Text] When Dr. Clovis Maqsud [former Arab League representative to the United Nations] says that the Arab economic boycott of Israel is legal, whose legitimacy is recognized internationally since it came into force due to the existence of a state of war, then, when the state of war ends, the boycott measures are also terminated.

When Dr. Maqsud says something like this, (and this view is shared by Muhammad 'Umran, Arab League assistent Secretary General) he is putting his finger on one of the U.S. tricks aimed to push the Arabs to reward the Israeli occupiers for their occupation of Arab lands by ending the boycott.

This U.S. strategem tends to begin at the end and turn priorities completely upside down. If normalization, for example, follows ending the war based on the free will of the parties to the dispute, the U.S. Administration seeks to start with normalization while the occupation is still there and the state of war still exists. In other words, Washington hopes to reach the results before removing their causes, in fact, even before any declared Israeli commitment to remove these causes is made.

Linking halting settlement-building to ending the boycott is akin to trading withdrawal for another occupation. Ending the boycott is a sovereign decision of the first degree, as has been announced. If Tel Aviv (along with Washington) is really concerned about ending the boycott, the way to achieve this is to leave the occupied territories, recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the steps following the end of the state of war, and open the doors before various forms of normalization in accordance with the free will of the concerned sides, as was said previously. The fact that Egypt is so anxious to lift the boycott is not new. After the partial and unilateral solution of the Camp David formula and its official withdrawal from the Arab-Israeli conflict, Egypt has proceeded to end the boycott and settle into a state of normalization (rejected by the vast majority of the Egyptian people). What applies to the Camp David experiment, is not necessarily good for or applicable to the current stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict. President Husni Mubarak has previously often said that the Camp David formula is dead and gone. Why are there efforts to revive it now, or revive its conditions, results, and logic?

As for settlements, they are merely an extension of the occupation and an attempt to increase and intensify it. When the international community rejects occupation, it is only logical and natural that it also rejects the extensions and forms of this occupation. The required Israeli acceptance of such a stand does not merit any reward, and does not dictate that the Arabs should discard their economic weapons after they unilaterally abandoned the military option at a time when the situation necessitates that the Arabs should adhere to their weapons and the rest of their capabilities, and not squander them before negotiations actually start.

Under all circumstances, it is the duty of the Arabs not to appear as though they always take a step forward everytime Israel does, since this portrays a false image of the struggle that the Arabs and Israeli occupiers are equal in committing mistakes and seeking to restore rights. The real struggle is actually between the Israeli aggressors and the Arab victims—the Palestinians to be precise. It is political and moral debauchery that the victimized side be asked to prove its good intentions and straight behavior. In addition, it is absolutely ridiculous that the victims accept such demands and rules.

As is known, Israel has a great strategic interest in normalizing the situation, terminating the state of war, and ending the Arab boycott of Israel. It is absolute foolishness to volunteer beforehand to respond to these demands before the occupation forces start withdrawing from the occupied territories, and before the Palestinian people return to their land and start practicing their legitimate rights to national self-determination.

At any rate, the requirements are to rescue the Arab destiny and defend its future, not search for solutions to the Israeli dilemma under the pretext that they are facilitating the chances for peace. Rather than seek to end the boycott of Israel, I wish the Arabs would stop the alienation and end their boycott of each other. That would be more useful and dignified than flirting with the Zionists who scorn the Arabs completely.

Economists View Lifting Arab Boycott of Israel

JN2207120791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by Nimin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's announcement that it is willing to lift the Arab economic boycott of Israel if the conditions were right does not necessarily mean normalisation of trade between Israel and the Arab states but lifting restrictions placed on third party countries and companies.

According to economists and politicians contacted by the JORDAN TIMES, the offer by Egypt, later accepted by Saudi Arabia and Jordan, covers companies and countries who were banned from trade with Arab countries because of their deals with Israel or investments in that country.

His Majesty King Husayn said Sunday that Jordan would accept the proposal "if the dynamics of the situation could be worked out."

The King was speaking at a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the end of the American official's short visit to the Kingdom.

Dr Jawad al-'Anani, an economist and former minister of trade, said that the proposal, if adopted, would be "more of a gesture to the American and European companies who deal with Israel than one towards Israel itself."

Dr. 'Abdallah al-Maliki, an economic analyst and head of the Association of Banks in Jordan, also confirmed that the boycott list, compiled by the Damascus-based Arab Boycott office, "dealt mainly with third parties who conduct business with Israel and were until now boycotted by Arab countries."

Dr. al-'Anani said that the Arab boycott was a three-pronged approach to products and commodities marketed by companies which invested in Israel, carried an Israeli input, or were purely Israeli in origin.

"It is not clear what the Egyptians proposed exactly, but the boycott has different forms," Dr. al-'Anani pointed out.

The first form, according to Dr. al-'Anani, deals with countries which invest in Israel. The second form is whether the commodities of these companies have any Israeli input and the third form is whether the commodity is directly produced in Israel.

"The question is what does this boycott mean? Does it mean the companies or countries which invest in Israel? If it is, and I think that is what is meant, then it is a gesture to the United States and Europe," Dr. al-'Anani said.

He explained that Japanese companies, especially car-manufacturers, did not conduct business with Israel because of the lucrative business they would have been denied in the Arab World.

Dr. al-Maliki, who insisted that it would be illegal for any Arab country to unilaterally decide to end the boycott of Israel and its companies directly, said that the Arab boycott was intended as a screening organisation for companies which dealt with Israel rather than the occupying country itself.

"All these countries (Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan) are bound by Arab charters which directly link the boycott of trade with Israel to its occupation of Arab lands. To break the stipulations of these charters would be in direct contravention of the Arab League Charter," Dr. al-Maliki pointed out.

But he did not rule out that this first step by Arab countries would gradually lead to normalization of trade relations with Israel as the peace process developed.

"In any measure, direct trade with Israel would take time and many arrangements dealing with financing and marketing," Dr. al-Maliki said adding that while Egypt had normalised political relations with Israel "it has not been able to normalise trade yet."

Dr. al-'Anani, who described "Arab boycott" as an "elusive term" said he believed that the issue was "added on the political agenda for negotiations during the proposed peace conference."

"No one can pass judgement at this time. To me it means that this issue was added to the agenda of the peace meeting so that it can be relaxed pending the outcome of negotiations," Dr. al-'Anani said.

"The countries involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, in my opinion, have already started their negotiations," Dr. al-Anani asserted.

U.S. Should Pressure Israel, Demand Response

JN2307072291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
23 Jul 91 p 1, 18

[Unattributed editorial: "The United States Covers Up for Israel's Prevarication"]

[Text] Despite the optimisitic atmosphere disseminated by the U.S. secretary of state after concluding his talks with Israeli officials, it is clear that James Baker did not get from the Israeli side the response that would have enabled him to announce that Israel has accepted the U.S. initiative and that the door before the the desired international conference is now open.

It seems that Israel still clings to many of its declared conditions as regards the convening of the international conference, and that the United States has, on its part, given more and more leeway for Yitzhaq Shamir's government to continue with its well-known maneuvers to buy time. At the same time, it can avoid appearing to be the party hindering the peace process led by Washington.

The United States, which pushed the Arab sides to give helpful responses and did everything in its power to lure them to respond to the elements of the U.S. plan to convene a peace conference, behaved differently with Israel when James Baker announced that his country will not apply any pressures on its strategic ally in the Middle East, and that the United States is giving Israel all the time it wants to respond to its initiative on convening the proposed conference.

As a result of all this, we find ourselves before a situation where Israel continues its prevarication, whilst the United States continues to totally cover up for such an Israeli policy. We hope that this situation will not lead to making the U.S. initiative once again confront a new state of recalcitrance which, after a while, would require a new sixth tour by the U.S. secretary of state.

Therefore, we believe the United States should not miss this new opportunity to overcome the last existing obstacles down the road of convening the peace conference by revealing the aim of the continuing Israeli prevarication, and not giving Israel more time to respond. We now know very well that Israel's answers will be conditional and ambiguous if the United States does not put an end to this situation.

Editorial Expresses Optimism Over Peace Efforts

JN2207154891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Jul 91 pp 1, 24

[Unattributed editorial: "The Peace Efforts"]

[Text] The Jordanian and Arab commitment to a just and comprehensive peace is firm and steady. The Israeli rejection of peace, and Washington's support of their rejection over the years that the Arab territories have been occupied, have subjected our region to terrible destruction and instability, and has cost us dearly.

Today, as the United States decides to follow the efforts it started after its barbaric aggression on Iraq and as it employs international legitimacy to implement Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, we express our optimism, stressing that this is the only chance for Washington to disprove our accusations concerning its double-standard policy, hypocrisy, and desire to deceive us. What it did and is still doing against the Iraqi people and Arab nation's right to progress and build its self-defense, and the policies it has been pursuing aimed at humiliating us, cannot be erased except by a sincere and serious U.S. effort that applies international legitimacy—principles and resolutions—to the Middle East crisis; ends the Israeli occupation of Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Syrian heights, Southern Lebanon, and every inch of Arab territory; and opens the door to a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestine question and the Arab-Zionist conflict. Otherwise, efforts will only harm the Arabs in present and future and provide conditions for the Israeli entity to impose its full hegemony over us. If this goal appears possible in light of the barbaric U.S. aggression on Iraq, the Iraqis, and our Arab nation, it is difficult to bet on the continuation of circumstances created by this aggression. It should be stressed that these circumstances are Washington's chance to impose a just peace on the Israeli entity and not to back its rejection of this peace again, because weakness would soon change to destructive force under the mounting feeling of humiliation by the millions of Arabs and their potential power.

Real Impact of Gulf Crisis 'Yet To Take Place'

JN2107104991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
21 Jul 91 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "Economic Damage Has Yet To Come"]

[Text] The title of the article intends to establish two facts. First that the Jordanian economy was not heavily damaged in 1990 as a result of Gulf crisis. Second, that the real economic impact of the crisis on Jordan has yet to take place. The impact will gradually be felt beginning now, and is expected to last for years to come. That is unless Jordan receives massive external aid and Jordan's debts are written off.

It is obvious now that the immediate damage to the economy has so far been much less than feared, only tourism and transport were badly affected but for a relatively short period of time.

It is true that, due to the Gulf crisis, Jordan lost one quarter of its export markets, one third of expatriates' remittances, and all Arab aid, but, in the short run, Jordan was adquately compensated for those damages through foreign aid, concessionary oil from Iraq, and suspension of debt service. On cash basis, the Jordanian balance of payments for 1990 showed a surplus of $342 million, which was added to the reserves.

Gross domestic product [GDP] was not slashed by the horrible ratios suggested in early estimates. GDP in 1990 is thought to be only 7.9 per cent down in real terms instead of the previously anticipated growth rate of 3 per cent.

However, the international financial compensation was only temporary. While Jordan may suffer in the longer run because the freeze of Arab aid may continue for years, foreign aid may dry up or decline sharply, creditors may start to put pressure on Jordan to resume payment and, above all, more Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates may return from Kuwait and other Gulf states while the country is ill-prepared to receive them.

The budget deficit was covered early in 1991, but may worsen in 1992 and beyond. The cash surplus in the balance of payments in 1990 may be reversed into a painful deficit, and the high unemployment rate of 25 per cent may go even higher.

The major burden on the economy will be the absorption of returnees and their families. If the number reached half a million, Jordan will need a minimum of $7.5 billion to build the badly needed facilities and infrastructure in education, health, water, sewage, electricity, transport, communication and housing. The above figure is based on an assumed average cost of $15,000 to absorb one returnee although the cost of absorption of one Jewish immigrant to Israel is estimated at $100,000.

Before the Gulf crisis the official conservative estimate of the unemployed stood at 100,000 or 16 per cent of the total labour force. Since then some 60,000 expatriates, mostly from Kuwait, returned to the country, together with 200,000 of their dependents. A small portion passed on to the West Bank or migrated to the new world but the majority settled in Jordan. Unemployment rose to 23 per cent before taking into account the local loss of jobs in certain sectors, which should put total unemployment at 25 per cent.

The Palestinian holocaust now in progress in Kuwait means that more Jordanians and Palestinians will return. At least 100,000 new jobs must be created in the country just to keep the unemployment rate that prevailed before the crisis.

The cost of investment to create one job in Jordan is estimated at $30,000. This means that at least $3 billion are needed. If this amount was added to the $7.5 billion need to absorb the returnees, the overall amount required will be $10.5 billion or 300 per cent of GDP.

Foreign donors such as Japan, Germany, the EC and international institutions may have the impression that they have done enough, and that the Jordanian economy is not in bad shape and does not need more cash injections in the form of grants and soft loans, but nothing is further from the truth.

It is no more productive to go on talking about damages that happened to the Jordanian economy because of the Gulf crisis. The large scale damages did not happen yet. Jordan does not only need billions of dollars to tackle its forthcoming economic and social burdens, and the write-off of its debts, it also needs a fair share of water from the al-Yarmuk and Jordan rivers, otherwise a major crisis will hit.

Postal System Handling Mail Into, From Iraq

JN2207120891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] Amman—An overland system is channeling mail to and from Iraq through Jordan and the Jordanian postal services are handling Iraqi mail shipments on a weekly basis, rendering a much-needed service for the people of Iraq who remain under an international air embargo.

"The system started functioning in early June and now we are processing incoming and outgoing mail on a weekly basis," said Dr. 'Abdallah al-Jazi, head of the Post Offices and Postal Savings Corporation. "The system is working very well."

Jordanian postal trucks collect Iraq-bound mail carried aboard Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights to Amman airport and ferry them, overland to Baghdad. On their return leg, the trucks bring in mail bearing Iraqi postal stamps to a central collecting centre in Amman and Jordanian postal employees process the shipments and channel them to outgoing RJ flights, Dr. al-Jazi told the Jordan Times.

The present arrangement does not include surface mail of heavy air-mail packages originating in Iraq.

According to Iraqis visiting Jordan, the Iraqi side of the system is limited to residents of Baghdad and major towns like Mosul and Karkuk and cities in western Iraq on a weekly basis.

"Most residents of the south are not even aware that postal services have been resumed after the (Gulf) war," which ended in early March, said an Iraqi businessman.

According to sources in the expatriate community in Iraq, the postal system has yet to take full effect because it was only launched eight or nine weeks ago.

"In view of the scarce availability of telecommunication lines, most of Iraqi government business is also done through mail," said a diplomat based in Baghdad.

Jordan, which represents the main lifeline for Iraq, also serves as the transit point for diplomatic bags from missions which have reopened in the Iraqi capital. Vehicles carrying Jordanian diplomatic license plates are a constant sight on the main Amman- Baghdad highway.

Dr. al-Jazi said the Jordanian postal system will continue to handle mail for Iraq until Iraqi Airways resume operations in and out of Baghdad. Iraqi Airways maintained a daily Baghdad Amman-Baghdad flight until the evening of Jan. 16 despite the air embargo imposed on Iraq by the Security Council.

One of the first targets of the allies in the war, which started in the early hours of Jan. 17, was Baghdad International Airport, which was repeatedly hit in devastating air attacks.

The airport has now been repaired and is capable of handling a limited number of incoming and outgoing flights, aviation sources said.

The Iraqi national carrier has sought U.N. Security Council approval to resume Amman-Baghdad-Amman flights "but the application remains somewhere in the labyrinth of the controversy surrounding Iraq's compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms," said a diplomatic source.

Arab League Chief's Treatment of Iraq Criticized

JN2107102391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
21 Jul 91 p 26

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "Where is the Arab League Secretary General?"]

[Text] Although several months have passed since Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was appointed Arab League secretary general, upon the consensus of the member states, the new secretary general has not yet acted as the secretary general of the Arab League and has not yet risen to the level of the pan-Arab responsibility.

Those who think well of 'Abd-al-Majid say that he still acts as Egypt's foreign minister, and reflects the positions of the Egyptian regime with all its good and bad points. Those who think ill of him say that he represents the alliance, is biased toward it, and reflects the views of the so-called new world order—the order of the unilateral U.S. hegemony over the world.

The proponents of either of these two theories support their argument by giving specific examples of the new Arab League secretary general's conduct, statements, and positions. We do not want to point to some of what Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has done or said, but rather to what he has not done or said, because that is more important.

The new secretary general visited a number of Arab states including Kuwait. He also has a travel agenda to other Arab capitals. He, however, has not visited Iraq, and Baghdad is not on his travel agenda. Is Iraq still in his view an Arab member of the League, or is it that the secretary general does not recognize Iraq until its relations are normalized with the United States which announced that it will not normalize relations until Iraq's president and regime are changed, and a new president, who gains President Bush's blessings, is appointed?

The secretary general spoke of many issues on which the League did not adopt resolutions. He depended on his official position as a secretary general who represents the Arab nation in the international community and talks on its behalf. As we know, he did not call for the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Iraq, object to the intervention of the United States, Britain, and France in the Iraqi internal affairs, regret the destruction of Iraq's weapons which were a strategic deterrent of the Israeli aggression, object to the continuation of the economic embargo now that the reasons for it have disappeared, and call for lifting this embargo out of, at least, respect for human rights following the steps of the heads of the UN missions and the independent humanitarian organizations.

When Iraq calls for convening the League to review the situation and study the U.S. threats to launch another war against Iraq despite its full cooperation with the United Nations and its acceptance of all Security Council resolutions despite their injustice, when Iraq calls for convening the Arab League, the secretary general responds that he will not call for a meeting until he receives the approval of at least 11 Arab states, but does nothing to obtain these approvals, bearing in mind that the United States fixed a near date to complete the destruction of Iraq.

Kindly, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, you are no longer Egypt's foreign minister, nor an active member of the alliance. You are now the secretary general of the Arab League.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives in Amman 22 Jul

JN2307072891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
23 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member and Abu-Mazin, Fatah Central Committee member, arrived in Amman last night on a working visit to Jordan that will last several days.

During the visit he will meet with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and a number of Jordanian officials to discuss the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, particularly in light of the Syrian reply to the U.S. initiative, and Baker's recent tour of the region.

Abu-Mazin had earlier met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Cairo.

King Meets Islamic Conference Organization Head

JN2107195291 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] His majesty the king received Mr. Hamid al-Ghabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, the ICO, who arrived in Amman today for a three-day visit. Discussions focussed on matters of concern to the Arab and Islamic world. Al-Ghabid and the accompanying delegation were also received by the speakers of both houses of parliament.

Al-Masri Briefs Union Chiefs on Current Policy

JN2307073791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri received at his office this evening heads of the Jordanian professional associations.

During the meeting, the professional associations' role in serving the Jordanian society was discussed. A review was also made of the government's policy statement before the House of Representatives, particularly the implementation of His Majesty King Husayn's directives on sponsoring and supporting the Jordanian professional associations to enable them to perform their tasks of improving their members' work and living conditions.

The conferees also discussed the issue of lifting martial law and the freedom of the press in accordance with the proposed Jordanian press and publications law, and the issue of guaranteeing citizens' liberties.

The prime minister briefed the heads of the Jordanian professional associations on the latest political developments in the Middle East region, particularly those related to the Palestine question and the U.S. moves in this regard.

The prime minister stressed the constants of the Jordanian policy that calls for applying international legitimacy to the Palestine question, which is primarily based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Chief of Royal Court Returns From Cairo 21 Jul

JN2107054991 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Chief of the Royal Court al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir returned home last night from Cairo after delivering a verbal message to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message dealt with coordination between Jordan and Egypt regarding peace efforts in the Middle East area.

Labor Minister To Seek New Markets for Workers

JN2107100391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by Nabil Ghazzawi]

[Excerpt] Minister of Labor 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi has stressed that the Ministry will continue to develop a policy aimed at opening new labor markets for Jordanian workers in the Arab countries. He said the ministry will continue the previous policy of organizing and developing the Jordanian labor market with the aim of providing more job opportunities for citizens in various productive and economic sectors.

The labor minister disclosed to AL-DUSTUR that he will soon tour a number of Arab countries, including the Republic of Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Yemen, and the Libyan Jamahiriyah with the aim of discussing with his counterparts, the labor ministers, their countries' requirements of Jordanian expertise and qualified workers. [passage omitted]

Hizballah's Al-Musawi: No Surrender of Arms

PM1907153691 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jul 91 p 2

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi by Walid Shuqayr and Ghalib al-Ashmar in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] How will Hizballah adapt to the imposition of the legitimate authority and collection of arms in the South?

[Al-Musawi] Just as a correction regarding the historical beginning, I say that the new phase began with the solution of the problem of the eastern area. Generally speaking, there were no major problems in the Islamic area. [passage omitted]

The difficult test for the al-Ta'if agreement and steps now is Israel's intransigent position. The state may try to move in other directions now to provide additional proof of credibility and to show that it will not fail. Quick steps are supposed to be taken, particularly after the progress in Sidon, but there is a real obstacle which they cannot fail to admit, especially after the frank and clear U.S. statements and the frank and clear Israeli statements. The Israelis said that they would not withdraw, and the Americans did not ask anything of them and said they had promised nothing. Furthermore, they advised that the issue of Jazzin be postponed and not rushed. We believe that the most important test for the state and measures under the al-Ta'if agreement lies at the gates of Jazzin. They cannot stop at these limits.

[AL-HAYAH] While you believe that al-Ta'if is facing a test over the Jazzin issue, there are those who believe that you too are facing a test over the question of handing weapons over to the legitimte authorities under the plan to restore the state institutions' control. What is your position on that supposed test?

[Al-Musawi] Actually, we see this as a test for others. We cannot hand over our weapons except in honor, glory, dignity, and strength. Nobody can question the arms unless he is an agent. That is why this is a test for others. Has the Lebanese state reached such a level of subservience to Israel to sink so low? We pray to God that it will not reach that point.

It was the resistance which expelled Israel from a large part of Lebanon. If there is room now for the Lebanese Army to enter the South and establish the state's authority in the South, it is because of the resistance.

At any rate, if this is seen as a test for us over whether or not we will surrender our weapons, then let everyone know that we will not hand over our weapons. Lives depend on these weapons. That is, in addition to the principled ideological conviction that we face an enemy that threatens not only a small part of our territory but also our entire future. More than ever before, Israel is now stating most insolently and frankly that it wants the whole region from the Nile to the Euphrates. If we insisted on resistance and on the gun before this clearer and more insolent declaration, we are now even more determined and more adamant. If this is to be our test, then our arms represent a red line and will not be handed over. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Are you not willing to give the state a chance to pass this diplomatic and military (army) test and an opportunity to work for liberation itself?

[Al-Musawi] As a human being, do I have the right to experiment with matters of destiny, particularly if such an experiment would expose the homeland, the people, the resources, and our entire future to danger? You could carry out an experiment on an animal in an attempt to discover a good medicine. An experiment could be carried out on simple ordinary matters but not on matters affecting the fate and future of the people and the homeland. All the experiments with the Israeli enemy have been clear and conclusive. It will not give in to political pressure. Nothing of that kind will be of any use with that enemy. All the UN resolutions—from resolution 181 of 1947 to resolution 242 of 1967, to resolution 338 of 1973, to resolution 425 of 1978—condemn Israel and call on it to withdraw, but have these resolutions been of any use? Have they restored our territory or given us our water back? They have not brought us anything back. On the other hand, there was a unique experiment which put pressure on Israel and forced it to withdraw. That was the experiment of fighting, of arms, and of resistance. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Some people attach some importance to the hostage issue in the context of the normalization steps, whether in relation to economic aid or restoration of foreign confidence in the country's security. Hizballah plays an influential part by virtue of its links with the parties connected with this matter. Do you see an early end to this matter or is it still linked to past preconditions?

[Al-Musawi] We have said since the outset that we have nothing to do with this matter. Also we have never claimed any ability to influence these people. I will tackle the origin of that question on that basis. We doubt whether there is any real connection between economic aid and the solution of the hostage problem or between any plan to advance and normalize matters and the hostage problem. We believe that the United States and the West are not pleased with what has happened in Lebanon. On the surface, the United States claims to be satisfied and could consider that some of the steps were in its favor, but generally speaking, the United States is not satisfied with what is happening in Lebanon. The French and Israelis are not satisfied with what is happening. Even the Maronites, and especially the Lebanese Forces [LF], are not satisfied because had they been satisfied with the steps taken, they would not have sent their forces to the border strip. Thousands of LF fighters, with all their equipment, are now in the border strip. So how could a man like [Lebanese Forces Commander Samir] Ja'ja' claim that he was in harmony with these steps when he stands side by side with the Israeli enemy? We cannot understand that harmony.

The United States and the West want to link the situation in Lebanon to them directly. They insisted that it should not be linked to its own background. The Syrian-Lebanese treaty restored Lebanon to its own background. Israel considers that matter more dangerous than Saddam's move into Kuwait, according to the Israelis. That was one of the main steps taken in Lebanon that did not please the United States and the West, but the general atmosphere does not allow them to counter these steps. The United States and the West cannot say "no," especially since these steps were taken with the official approval of the Lebanese state at the level of the president, the cabinet, and the parliament. Usually, such situations cannot be resisted. That is why the Americans and the West tackle it in the field and in different ways, using certain pretexts to allow them to undermine these achievements.

So they saw nothing in front of them except the hostage issue. They know that nothing is as important for the restoration of Lebanon's health as the economy because of the strength it would give to the steps currently being taken. If the country fails economically and financially and remains weak, it will be unable to proceed quickly with its steps and it will not make any real achievements. That is why I believe that the United States and the West are trying to abort many steps or at least to obstruct these steps that have been taken in Lebanon and to stop them at a certain point. They will press with the economic-financial card which they fully hold.

[AL-HAYAH] If the state insists that the party and the resistance hand over their weapons, will it lead to a military clash?

[Al-Musawi] We, at any rate, have our own special circumstances which will not lead to confrontation. That will not happen. There will be no surrender of weapons and no military clash.

DFLP Member on Weapons, Siege of Camps

NC2307103891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] 'Ali Faysal, member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has emphasized that the Front and the PLO have closed the file on the handover of heavy- and medium-caliber weapons in the southern camps. He said: We have handed over all of these weapons we have. Therefore, linking the handing over of weapons with besieging the camps arouses in us many suspicions and fears, especially because this linkage has involved measures we previously experienced, namely, besieging the camps, closing the entrances to the camps, and exerting all types of pressure.

'Ali Faysal added: We call on the Lebanese state and the Ministerial Liaison Committee to hasten and remove the sand barricades surrounding the camps and to allow the citizens to move freely because we really do not wish to impede the state's endeavors to extend its authority over the Lebanese territory because it is in our interest to see the authority established over all the land, including Jazzin and the border strip. We have told the Lebanese state that implementing Resolution 425 is in the very interest of the PLO and the Palestinian people because it would be regarded as a prelude to implementing the international legitimacy's other resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue and the liberation of the Arab territories.

Faysal said: We need to reach an understanding and hold a dialogue. We call on the state to substantiate its credibility and not use force of arms to convey a message to regional and international parties because the objective of such a practice would soon surface. He said: The obstacle is not us, but Israel, which was not openly present in Jazzin before but is now patrolling Jazzin in defiance of the Lebanese authority. Israel says implementing Resolution 425 is not possible under the present circumstances or any other circumstances. In practice, Israel's policy indicates that it does not intend to withdraw from the south but to take control of waters in the south and in Lebanon as well as land for new settlements.

Faysal called on the state to reciprocate the positive Palestinian stand because, he said, we believe that this will serve the interests of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. He also called on the state to release all Palestinian civilian and military detainees it is holding and to stop threatening legal measures against them.

DFLP Spokesman Calls for End to Siege of Camps

NC2207123791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] An official spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has emphasized that because the weapons issue is resolved, the Palestinian leadership yearns to promote Palestinian-Lebanese relations and rebuild mutual confidence to benefit the two fraternal peoples. In a statement to the Voice of the Mountain radio, the spokesman urged the official quarters to honor their pledges and abolish all emergency measures, lift the siege of the camps, and assist the camps and their surrounding areas to return to normal. He asserted that the Palestinian side looks forward to meeting with the ministerial committee to begin talks on the Palestinians' social and civil rights.

The spokesman stressed that propelling Lebanese-Palestinian relations will be a major national responsibility at this stage. He said the Israeli occupation in the south is the only obstacle. He reiterated that all efforts and ranks must be united to eliminate this obstacle and ensure implementation of Resolution 425 and the Israeli occupation forces' withdrawal from the south.

Arab Paper Reports Jihad Offer on Prisoner Swap

NC2207143591 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
19 Jul 91 p 10

[Text] The "Islamic Jihad" Movement in Palestine said yesterday that it was ready to help exchange Israeli prisoners it holds for the Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners detained in Israeli prisons.

Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, the movement's official spokesman, said in a statement distributed in Beirut yesterday that the International Committee of the Red Cross can visit "the enemy prisoners detained in Lebanon" if "an official spokesman for the Zionist enemy declares his pledge to release all the detainees after the conclusion of the deal," and the following members of the movement are released immediately: 'Itaf 'Alayyan, Nidal Zallum, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, and 'Abd-al-Hadi Ghunaym.

Jordan To Reopen Embassy After 8-Year Closure

NC2107162291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Minister Plenipotentiary 'Atif Halasah, Jordan's new charge d'affaires in Lebanon, arrived in Beirut from Amman this morning. Halasah will reopen the Jordanian Embassy, which has been closed since 1983. [passage omitted]

SLA Commander Discusses Handover of Jazzin

NC2007112691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander General Antoine Lahd said in a press interview today that when the guarantees we think are necessary have been achieved, we will have no objection to handing Jazzin to the state. Once that is done, Lahd added, all matters will come to rest. If, however, these guarantees are not ensured, he said, Jazzin will not be handed over.

Army Reportedly 'Confronting' Israeli Planes

NC2307092091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0908 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] This morning Israel warplanes intensified their flights over the south and the camps and launched mock raids over the camps. The Army command guidance directorate issued a statement a while ago saying that as of 1100, Israeli aircraft have been flying over Sidon and that the Lebanese Army is confronting them appropriately.

Islamic Resistance Attacks Lahd Patrol 22 Jul

NC2307061691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] The Islamic Resistance men carried out a jihad operation against a Lahd agents' patrol on the 'Aramta road yesterday morning in commemoration of the 'Ashura of blood and sacrifice, setting off a mine under the patrol and causing several casualties. The Islamic Resistance pledged to Imam al-Husayn, God's peace be upon him, to follow his principles forever.

Al-Husayni on Linking National, Regional Solutions

NC2107193691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1900 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Speaking after a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi today, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni stated that Lebanon welcomes an international peace conference because of its commitment to the Arab position and the Palestinian people's rights and in view of the presence of a large number of Palestinians on its territory. Lebanon believes, however, that there is no connection between its territory and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Al-Husayni said that the portion of Lebanese territory occupied in 1978 is governed by the truce agreement, UN Resolution 425, and subsequent UN resolutions. This must be clear, he said, adding that Lebanon rejects any linkage between a solution to its crisis and one to that in the region.

On the Army deployment in Jazzin, al-Husayni said that the government's decision is indivisible. The process of peace and accord began with a national, Arab, and international decision, and it will culminate in the extension of the state's authority throughout all Lebanese territory in accordance with the contacts we have been holding.

Al-Shar': Palestinians Choose Own Negotiators

JN2207180291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Following his meeting with the Palestinian delegation, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that Syria agrees with whatever is decided by the Palestinian people, who alone have the right to choose their representatives to the peace negotiations. Minister al-Shar' added that he discussed with the PLO delegation the Palestinian view regarding Palestinian representation in the expected peace conference.

Salman Wants Conference Based on UN Resolutions

JN2307104691 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stressed that his country has no conditions regarding a settlement in the Middle East other than holding a peace conference based on the resolutions of international legitimacy which call for the Israeli withdrawal from all the 1967-occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH, published today, the Syrian minister said that the Syrian-U.S. dialogue is continuing to reactivate the peace process in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He added that the Israeli intransigence regarding halting settlements and the UN participation in the peace process is a stand that obstructs the moves toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace. He described the Israeli policy as hostile to peace and to U.S. President George Bush's initiative.

Israeli Withdrawal, Palestinian Rights Needed

JN2207183191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers, while James Baker was holding talks with Zionist officials on advancing the peace process in the region, the enemy Zionist government stressed adherence to the settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories. Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Israeli prime minister's office, informed representatives of Zionist settlements in the occupied Golan Heights that Israel is determined to continue its occupation of the Golan Heights. Ben-Aharon stressed that there are no question marks regarding enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's policy, which affirms that the Golan Heights will remain under Israeli occupation. For his part, Zionist Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon asserted that the Israeli Government will continue building settlements in the occupied Arab territories for hundreds of years to come, as he put it.

This is not the first time Zionist enemy leaders stress their adherence to the settlement policy in Arab territory. Every time U.S. Secretary State James Baker tours the region, and during his stay in occupied Palestine itself, the enemy leaders declare such intransigent stands, which obstruct the peace process and Baker's efforts to convene a peace conference to resolve the region's crisis. This was noted by the U.S. secretary himself during his past tours. The Zionist enemy government has continued to defy UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, and has continued to defy international legitimacy and the international community's appeals demanding a halt to Israeli activities to settle new Jewish immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The enemy leaders have not only failed to change their intransigent positions which obstruct the peace efforts, but continue to place obstacles before these efforts, asserting their rejection of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace as stipulated by the UN resolutions. The enemy leaders have countered the sincere Arab trend for peace—a trend welcomed and supported by the international community, the industrialized nations, and by the United States—with a completely contradictory trend which could further exacerbate the situation in the region and threaten peace and security in the Middle East and the world at large.

In his fifth tour, James Baker proceeded from the international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Syria and other Arab states that he visited responded to his mission, since they are eager to maintain the supremacy of international legitimacy, and because they are concerned about international peace and security. James Baker is now facing troubles and obstacles created by the Shamir government, which rejects the pillars of a just, comprehensive peace and international legitimacy, and which adheres to an aggressive, expansionist policy in the occupied Arab territories.

The Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, as stipulated in Resolutions 242 and 338, are among the most important terms of a just, comprehensive peace in the region. The enemy Zionist leaders' remarks on continued settlement activity only prove their defiance of the international community and rejection of peace and UN resolutions. This requires the entire world, represented by the UN Security Council and the United States, which is leading the peace process, to pressure Israel into complying with international legitimacy and to force it to accept UN resolutions. Otherwise, peace in the region cannot be attained.

U.S. Said 'Closer' to Arab Stand Through Talks

JN2307054091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 23 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Syrian Stand Toppled Israel's Wagers," the newspaper TISHRIN said in its editorial: We must undoubtedly record that President al-Asad succeeded, through his wisdom and experience, to topple Israel's wagers on more than one level. Contacts and intensive long talks with U.S. officials succeeded in bringing Washington closer to the Arab stand. The proof is that the U.S. Administration adopted Resolutions 242 and 338, adhered to a just and comprehensive peace, demanded insistently that settlements be halted in the occupied Arab territories, considered settlements a basic obstacle to peace, and affirmed that the UN resolutions include all fronts of conflict including the Golan Heights. The proof is also that the United States never once recognized the legitimacy of imposing Israeli law on the occupied Golan Heights. In addition, the Syrian response to the U.S. peace proposals also succeeded in bolstering Arab credibility, confusing Israel, and revealing its chronic hostility to peace. In fact, it put Israel in a very embarrassing predicament. Either it responds to peace efforts and submits to the international community's will, which is to withdraw from the Arab territories and realize the rights of the people of Palestine, or it rejects the peace efforts and risks thrusting Israel into an all-out confrontation with the international community, which would reflect negatively on it, and on the extensive Jewish immigration and huge aid it receives annually.

Washington, London, Paris, and other European capitals have made urgent calls to Shamir's government to respond to the U.S. proposals. These calls are characterized by a real warning to Israel not to slip into positions that cannot be recognized by the international community.

TISHRIN continues: The Israelis themselves admit that the positive Syrian response surprised them completely and that Syria has realized big gains for the Palestine question by explaining to the United States the justness of Arab demands, such as withdrawing from the occupied territories, halting settlement-building, and trading land for peace. Israel's belligerence could make it find itself rejected internationally and exposed to future sanctions, as was the case with South Africa. In addition, the international community adopted the comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, something Syria has been struggling for for a long time when it rejected partial and unilateral solutions, and insisted on a comprehensive and just settlement.

TISHRIN concludes: When Syria sent its positive response, its prime concern was the Palestine question, retrieval of the occupied territories, and comprehensive and just peace. Syria's stand today is appreciated by all the Arabs and Palestinians, as well as the whole world.

Response 'Technical Knockout' to Shamir's Stand

JN2007144191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: President Bush described the talks Secretary of State Baker held with President al-Asad in Damascus as very encouraging and positive. Baker termed the outcome of the talks extraordinary.

Meanwhile, international quarters continue to laud the wise, responsible Syrian stance that measured up to the ambitions and aspirations of countries in the region and the international community, without compromising the core of the conflict represented by the Palestine question and withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The constructive Syrian stance has eliminated Israel's pretexts and defused the land mines it planted on the path of peace. The Syrian stance has focused efforts on a just, comprehensive solution and won a broad international commitment and a clear U.S. pledge to work to enforce UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which the linchpin of any peaceful approach in the region. As everybody knows, these two resolutions do not permit the forceful occupation of territories and call for Israel's full withdrawal and a recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

As a result of Syria's sincere response to the peace proposal, the international community intensified its pressure on Israel, considered all its no's invalid, and held it responsible for impeding U.S. efforts and wasting a unique chance to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, end the suffering of the Palestinian people, and deliver the region from wars, unrest, and the arms race so that its resources can be devoted to achieving development, prosperity, and affluence.

In this regard, the Italian foreign minister said that Israel henceforth has no excuse to obstruct peace. He added that Israel would be fully responsible for wasting a historic, precious opportunity.

It is obvious that the Israeli enemy leaders are at a real impasse, and are looking for outlets for more maneuvers, delays, and procrastinations to protect them from the anger of the world and the criticism of the international community. In fact, many voices have been raised in Israel calling on its officials to show flexibility, and not to take a stance that rejects peace and leads to total isolation and the collapse of the Israeli-U.S. relationship.

These quarters have described the Syrian initiative as the technical knockout that would fully expose Shamir's stands. So, the choice now is either a response to peace efforts and what that entails; namely, a conference for all parties concerned and measures that lead to withdrawal from the occupied territories; or consolidating Israel's rejection of peace and embroiling it in a confrontation with the international community.

Observers who have followed the recent developments have not ruled out the possibility of Shamir blowing up the present government coalition and calling for new elections in the Zionist entity so as to circumvent the requirements of peace.

The truth is that Syria's positive response to the U.S. proposals is far from propaganda; it measures up to the level of responsibility as evidenced in the great Arab approval and support and the great international appreciation. Syria considers the occupied Arab territories an indivisible whole. No withdrawal from the Golan at the expense of the West Bank and vice versa. No bargaining over the rights of the Palestinian people. This was emphasized by President al-Asad and President Mubarak at their recent Damascus press meeting.

What concerns Syria and Egypt is certainly to end the suffering of the Palestinian people which has reached unendurable limits as a result of the brutal Zionist suppression. Syria and Egypt also want to eliminate the grave threat to the occupied Arab territories represented by widespread Jewish settlement. The Arab response to peace efforts has put the international community and the United States before their responsibilities. There is no other choice for them but to work to enforce international resolutions and end Israel's disobedience and defiance of international legitimacy.

If Israel rejects the peace proposals, we do not believe that anyone would run the risk of supporting the Shamir government with the necessary funds to settle hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories, or supplying it with advanced weapons to continue its aggression and challenge to the international community.

Israel alone is responsible for wasting the present peace opportunity if it persists in its recalcitrance. If this happens, the international community will learn a lesson from Israel's rejection and shift from making wishes and appeals to real action to end the Israeli aggression that has oppressed the Palestinian people for more than 40 years.

Radio Stresses Palestinian Rights, Independence

JN1907203291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Palestine broadcast; segment by Ibrahim Basyuni: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers: Arab and world political circles continue to welcome Syria's positive response to President Bush's letter on U.S. proposals on the regional peace process. These circles agree that the Syrian response greatly embarrassed Israel, whose stalling and evasive stand crippled international and U.S. efforts to promote the Middle East peace process.

After the Syrian response to Bush's letter, the entire problem lies with the other side, Israel, which has rushed to reiterate its rejection of the U.S. President's proposals. International efforts are concentrating on a just and comprehensive peace in the region, in accordance with the UN resolutions. The whole world is unanimous in the belief that international legitimacy must be respected, obeyed, and used as a means to solve international disputes. Meanwhile, the rulers of the Zionist entity continue their intransigence. They are adhering to their previous stand of rejecting all international resolutions and all diplomatic good offices for settling the Arab-Zionist struggle and finding a solution to the Palestinian problem in a way that would realize peace and security in the entire Middle East region, and ensure the right of self-determination for the Palestinian Arab people, especially their right to establish an independent state in their Palestinian homeland.

Moreover, the Zionist entity rulers countered all these political moves and diplomatic efforts with more intransigence, showing hostility to the principle of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The enemy rulers have reiterated their intention to continue the policy of settling and annexing the occupied Arab territories, affirming the need to settle new Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and challenging all international appeals and resolutions that demand the contrary. On all occasions, the enemy leaders have reiterated their unwillingness to withdraw from occupied Arab territories or to convene an international conference for all parties under UN supervision. They announced their adherence only to direct bilateral negotiations without the participation of the United Nations, the side that issued the international resolutions, including 242 and 338, which define a just and comprehensive settlement for the Middle East crisis.

Furthermore, the enemy rulers have continued their arbitrary and terrorist policy against Arab citizens and their property with the aim of wiping out the brave Palestinian intifadah and turning a cold shoulder to all international appeals and resolutions that demand an end to these criminal and repressive practices.

Thus, whenever the world reaches a consensus on the need for Middle East peace based on justice, international legitimacy, and UN resolutions, Israel jumps to challenge the international will, efforts, and resolutions by its adherence to the policy of annexation, Judaization, and settlement, and by its sticking to the policy of repression, terror, and deportation in the occupied Arab territories.

A just and comprehensive peace in the region requires first and foremost that Israel renounce the policy of annexation, Judaization, and settlement, and stop its deportation, expulsion, and other repressive and terrorist policies against the Palestinian people. Israel should renounce its intransigent stands that reject the UN resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

The cause of peace and security in the region requires a solution to the Palestinian problem because it is the central problem in the region and guarantees the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Unless all of this is preceded by Israel's submission to international will, any move toward establishing peace in the region becomes a waste of time. The rulers of the Zionist entity must realize and recognize this in light of the current endeavors to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Al-Shar' Confers With PLO's Qaddumi on Peace

JN2207144491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus—A round of talks between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Taking part in the talks for the Syrian side were Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Anwar Shaykhuni, director of the Palestine Department; and Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Department. Taking part for the Palestinian side were PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Abu-'Ali Mustafa, and Sulayman al-Najjab, as well as Mahmud al-Khalidi, PLO representative in Damascus.

Talks revolved around the international efforts to convene a peace conference to achieve a just, comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute within the framework of international legitimacy and on the basis of UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338. Talks also dealt with the obstacles placed by Israel before the peace process. The two sides reviewed international developments and the current Arab situation in general.

UN's Goulding, Observer Force Commander Visit

Received by Vice President

JN2007160991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] At 1300 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Assistant UN Secretary General Marrack Goulding and General Adolf Radaver, commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force [UNDOF]. The meeting was attended Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah, head of the Syrian side in the Joint Truce Commission.

They reviewed current developments in the region, the situation in southern Lebanon, and the importance of exerting efforts to implement Resolution 425.

Discuss Lebanon With al-Shar'

JN2107134591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs, this morning. The meeting was attended by Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah, head of the Syrian side of the Joint Truce Commission; Dr. Mahdi al-Jazzar, director of the organizations department at the Foreign Ministry; and General Adolf Radaver, commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force [UNDOF].

Talks centered on the situation in the Lebanese arena, especially in the south, and the need to implement Security Council Resolution 425. Goulding praised the great success achieved by the Lebanese Government in bringing about security and stability as a result of Syria's support. He also said that the Lebanese Government's decision to deploy Lebanese forces in the south is an important step toward implementing Resolution 425.

Al-Shar' Discusses ICO Meetings With al-Ghabid

JN2307092391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], and the delegation accompanying him who are currently visiting Syria.

The meeting was attended by the directors of the organizations and protocol departments at the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Dr. al-Ghabid expressed his thanks to Syrian officials for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. He affirmed that his visit is aimed at holding contacts with Syrian officials as part of the preparations being made to convene the 20th ICO foreign ministers' conference due to be held in Istanbul on 8 August, and also as part of the preparations to hold the 6th ICO summit due to be held in Dakar, Senegal in December. He added that Syria occupies a key position in the region and in the Islamic world. He went on to say that any contact with the Syrian brothers can contribute to the success of our Islamic meetings and conferences, and also bolster Islamic solidarity.

Afghanistan

Reportage on Mujahidin Operations, Attacks

Mas'ud Claims Town Near Soviet Border

BK2207100191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 22 (AFP)—Forces of Afghan mujahedin commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud said Monday they had captured the northeastern town of Ishkashem near the Soviet border, a rebel spokesman said here.

Their attack Sunday followed the capture one week earlier of Zebak, another strategic town in Badakhshan Province, said Ahmed Zia, Mr. Mas'ud's brother and spokesman in Pakistan.

The mujahedin said that an unknown number of soldiers and militiamen were taken prisoner, while others fled across the Amu Daria River, also known as the Oxus, into the Soviet Union following the battle for Ishkashem. The Badakhshan offensive was being led by Najmuddin Khan, a commander affiliated with Mr. Mas'ud, Mr. Zia said.

Mr. Mas'ud's forces now plan to take the Badakhshan provincial capital Faizabad, northwest of Ishkashem, or Wakhan in the mountainous northeastern province of Pamir, he said.

Mr. Mas'ud began stepping up his operations in northern Afghanistan in mid-May, claiming successes in Takhar, Badakhshan, Kunduz and Parwan Provinces.

Each time his forces have struck at government "weak points" before attacking towns, Mr. Zia said.

The mujahedin are fighting to overthrow the pro-Soviet government in Kabul and replace it with an Islamic one.

Mujahidin Operations in Herat

BK2207153491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have occupied Karokh area in Herat Province. The reports say mujahidin, in an operation at Zendeh Jan in the same province, killed 50 Kabul regime militiamen and seized a considerable quantity of arms. Three tanks of Kabul regime were also damaged in the operation. In other attacks at different places in the same province, the mujahidin killed 17 Kabul regime troops. One mujahidin was martyred and two were injured in the attack.

Mujahidin Occupy Eshkashem Town

BK2307015891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Accordign to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have occupied the northern town Eshkashem in Badakhshan province. A large number of Kabul regime troops have been taken prisoner during the offensive. In the beginning of this week, the mujahidin had captured Ribat, another strategically-important city. The reports also say that mujahidin are now preparing to capture the provincial capital Feyzabad in the northwest of (Bahan).

Pakistani Charge Summouned, Accusations Denied

LD2107165891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] The charge d'affaires at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon. The protest of the Afghan Government rejecting accusations by the Pakistani Government was conveyed to him in letter no. 926, dated 21 July, by the head of the first political section of that ministry.

In the letter, Pakistan's baseless accusations that Afghanistan's aircraft have entered Pakistani air space for reconnaissance flights and that a rocket was fired at the Lila Majnon region on Pakistan's territory, are described as efforts by the Pakistani Government to distract attention from that country's flagrant aggression and interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and to distort public and international opinion of Pakistan.

The latter rejects Pakistan's accusations and declares that they are a long way from the truth.

Kabul Garrison Troops Conduct Operations

LD2107203191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Yesterday, the Armed Forces units included in the General Command of Kabul Garrison carried out mopping-up operations in some parts of Wardaq Province.

According to a report by the BIA [BAKHTAR Information Agency] military section, as a result of these operations, a number of warmongering extremists were crushed, and two DsHks, a [word indistinct], and thousands of rounds of light and heavy ammunition were seized. Two warmongering extremists were arrested.

In the course of these operations a DsHk, a communication system, and an extremist position were destroyed.

A huge ammunition depot of the warmongering extremists was set ablaze yesterday as a result of artillery fire by the armed forces in some parts of Koh-e Safi [Kabul Province]. The BIA military section reports that as a result of this fire, thousands of surface-to-surface missiles, shells,light and heavy weapons belonging to the extremists were destroyed completely. Also, a number of its guards were also crushed.

According to another report, the personnel of the Department of the Campaign Against Crims of Kabul Province's Sarandoy Command, discovered and seized today a quantity of arms and ammunition that had been placed in some areas around Kabul.

According to the BIA military section, the seized arms and ammunition, which had been placed to slaughter our Muslim and religious compatriots, include 10 rockets, three mortar shells, an antitank mine, two Mazeal [as heard] shells, and seven antipersonnel mines. They were discovered and removed with the cooperation of the local peace-loving people.

Bangladesh

Rival Student Groups Clash at Dhaka University

BK2307072691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0643 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Dhaka, July 23 (AFP)—Elections to the student union of Bangladesh's main university have been postponed following clashes between rival student groups, students and police said Tuesday.

Student activists traded gunfire and attacked the office and residence of the university's vice-chancellor, M. Moniruzzaman Mia, on Monday, but there were no reports of serious injuries.

Police posted on the campus for the past several months did not intervene, which would require the permission of the vice-chancellor, but announced throw microphones that the elections, initially scheduled for August 5 has been postponed.

The announcement sparked an angry demonstration by a group of students thought to belong to the opposition Awami League, students said.

A university spokesman said, "we decided to postpone the polls because we fear that the situation will otherwise worsen further."

Students said tension was running high on the campus, with one calling the situation "volcanic," adding, "we fear a big fight may break out any time."

The university has been a traditional hotbed of Bangladesh student politics, but authorities said they had hoped that after a democratic government was restored in the country in March the situation would change for the better.

"We are disappointed with the student leaders and they have failed to keep up to the expectation of the people by resorting to frequent clashes," one university teacher said by telephone.

He said the political parties should immediately take charge of their student wings to save the country from uncertainty and anarchy.

Meanwhile, in another shooting in the capital's Suhrawardy College overnight at least 20 people including women and children were injured when rival student factions of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party fought a gun battle for several hours.

The college has been shut until further notice following the incident, for which no cause has so far been established.

BCCI Clients Threaten Hunger Strike

BK2207103191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Dhaka, July 22 (AFP)—Some 40,000 Bangladeshi clients of the Scandakidden Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have threatened to go on a hunger strike unless their money is returned immediately, a spokesman said Monday.

"We are hostage to an extremely unpredictable situation," the spokesman for the depositors said, adding that the decision to launch a hunger strike was taken Sunday by a recently formed depositors' association.

The Central Bangladesh Bank has reiterated that the interests of BCCI clients would be [word indistinct]. It is one of the top international banks operating in Bangladesh.

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman said in press reports that an announcement would be made shortly about returning funds to BCCI clients. BCCI clients here have staged demonstrations and submitted petitions to the Finance Ministry as well as to the governor of the Central Bank demanding their funds since BCCI offices here were closed.

The Central Bank suspended BCCI's operations one day after the Bank of England, in concert with monetary authorities in Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, froze the bank's activities on July 5 for alleged massive fraud.

Maldives President Visits, Holds Contacts

Confers With Prime Minister

BK2007162391 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Excerpt] President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, during talks in Dhaka this morning, discussed steps to strengthen SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. At their 90-minute meeting at the state guest house, Meghna, they also discussed bilateral issues.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, a Foreign Office spokesman said the two leaders agreed to increase cooperation among SAARC members to ensure peace, prosperity, and socioeconomic development of the region. As current chairman of SAARC, Mr. Gayoom briefed Begum Zia about the SAARC activities. The observance of SAARC year of environment in 1992, setting up of a

SAARC regional fund, study in the causes and consequences of natural disasters and protection and preservation of environment, studies in the green house effect and its impact on the region, and setting up of nongovernmental and professional associations came up for discussion. Regarding the SAARC fund, it was observed that the fund could be constituted by voluntary contributions of member-states and also by donor agencies and international financial institutions. The two leaders, among others, also discussed about the status of children in SAARC countries and called for [words indistinct] of the experts meeting held on the subject in February this year.

Begum Zia said SAARC as a concept is very close to Bangladesh and all member nations should do everything to address the problem of poverty in this region in an environment of peace, security, and stability. On Dhaka-Male relations, Begum Khaleda Zia described the existing ties as excellent and said cooperation is very satisfactory. She offered seats in the medical, engineering, and other institutions for the Maldives students. Bangladesh could send both skilled and unskilled labor to Maldives. She welcomed more economic cooperation between the two countries in the form of joint ventures for mutual benefit of Bangladesh and the Maldives. Later, at a news conference at the VIP lounge at Zia International Airport, Mr. Maumoon described his talks with the acting president and prime minister as productive and fruitful. [passage omitted]

Ends Visit, Departs

BK2007132191 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives left Dhaka Saturday afternoon ending his two-day official visit to Bangladesh. The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia saw him off at the airport.

Earlier at a news conference at the VVIP terminal, Mr. Gayoom described his talks with the acting president and prime minister as productive and fruitful. He said he is satisfied with the outcome of his visit which, he said, will further strengthen SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. The Maldives president said he also had talks on matters relating to the next SAARC summit in Colombo. He said he discussed with Bangladesh leaders about how to proceed further for the next summit. Replying to a question, Mr. Gayoom said SAARC has made progress since its inception. Economic development is the core area for SAARC activities and the next summit will concentrate on economic issues to bring about a better future for one billion people of the region.

Replying to another question, the Maldives president said SAARC should not concentrate on bilateral issues. If bilateral or contentious issues creep into SAARC, it will not be possible to devote to common issues confronting the member-countries. Of course, he said, it does not mean bilateral relations will not be discussed by members among themselves.

About cross-border terrorism, the Maldives president said SAARC has already signed a convention on suppression of terrorism in the region. After the convention is ratified by the member-nations, the agreement is expected to reduce to a great extent terrorism in the region. The Maldives president also referred to his visit to Nepal and described as successful his talks with the Nepalese king and the prime minister.

India

Suspect Held in Gandhi Case, Death Criticized

BK2207162291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] team investigating into Rajiv Gandhi's assassination today arrested one more key suspect leading to the discovery of code words used by the LTTE for their wireless messages and other incriminating evidence. The arrested suspect, who operated on different names, was one of the main collaborators in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi along with Srinivasan and Subha. He was also involved in the massacre of EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] leader, Mr. Padmanabha, and 13 others last year in Madras. According to a press release issued by the CBI team, the diary seized from the accused revealed the involvement of some more conspirators.

The Congress-I has sharply criticized the government for the mysterious death of Shanmugam, one of the accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. A meeting of the party general secretaries today said the death has caused serious concern about the course of the investigation. The meeting was attended by the Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, also. Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. C.P. Thakur, said the meeting demanded a full statement on the incident from the government. It said the government should take responsibility for the lapse and ensure action against those found guilty.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has also demanded an inquiry into the incident. In a statement, the party vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, said it seems some people are not interested in letting the whole truth about the Rajiv Gandhi assassination come out.

Further Reportage on Kidnapped Oil Official

Official Not Released, Statement Issued

BK2207100791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] There is no word about the kidnapped IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] executive director, Mr. K. Doraiswamy, from Jammu and Kashmir. As per the agreement reached between the authorities and the kidnappers on last Friday [19 July], he was scheduled to have been released by Saturday evening. Earlier, on the same day, the government set the process in motion by releasing three jailed militants. Mr. Doraiswamy was to have been set free within two hours of the release of these three militants. The release of the other two militants named by the kidnappers was to take place after the release of Mr. Doraiswamy. The kidnappers yesterday made a fresh demand for the release of seven more militants. The state government has asserted that the authorities have not gone back on their promise. In a statement it said that the names of the five militants originally agreed to be released were actually suggested by the kidnapers. The list does not include the name of a person whose release is now demanded. The statement says while the government is committed to the remaining part of the agreement, there is a need for convincing proof that Mr. Doraiswamy is safe and well.

Intermediary Held Hostage

BK2207155691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] In Srinagar, the state authorities have been in contact with the abductors of Mr. Doraiswamy today also and efforts are on to get him released. The official spokesman said in New Delhi that the kidnappers are assuring that Mr. Doraiswamy is safe and sound. He was to be released after the authorities released three militants on Saturday [20 July]. But his abductors did not keep up their commitment. Instead, they put up fresh demands, asking for the release of seven more of their associates and also kept Mr. Nazir Siddiqui, the intermediary, as hostage who went to hand over the three released militants to them. The director general of state police, Mr. J.N. Saxena, said in Srinagar that the state government stands committed on the implementation of the agreement. He said it is not known why the abductors of Mr. Doraiswamy backtracked. The state authorities hope that the captors will at least listen to the international public opinion which is becoming increasingly critical of their action of kidnapping and release Mr. Doraiswamy immediately as per their commitment.

Reportage on Punjab Elections, Other Issues

Rao on Election, Other Issues

BK2007161191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister has said elections in Punjab will be held only after a decision is taken on disqualifying candidates who campaign on a separatist plank. Mr. Narasimha Rao emphasized that the problem in Punjab is that the candidates of some parties, after having sworn allegiance to the Constitution, have sought to turn the election into a referendum on the creation of a separate state. Mr. Narasimha Rao was replying to the debate on the president's address in the Rajya Sabha. Reaffirming his commitment to a democratic solution to the Punjab problem, the prime minister urged the opposition parties to cooperate in arriving at an early decision on the disqualification issue.

Referring to Kashmir, Mr. Narasimha Rao regretted that the state government was dismissed leaving a gap between the people and the government. He said the proposed People's Committees would go a long way in bridging the gap.

On the economic crisis, the prime minister said that the country is going through an ordeal and tough measures are necessary.

Dealing at length the reservation issue for the backward classes in his hour-long speech, he said a unified approach is possible as a nucleus for a consensus which already exists. The problem should be resolved without fracturing national harmony. Amidst thumping of desks by ruling party benches the prime minister said that his government will fulfill all its promises regarding the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities and weaker sections. He said it will also take up the antipoverty program and revive the technology mission launched by the Rajiv Gandhi government.

Referring to the welfare activities for women, he said various programs being taken up by different departments will be brought under one umbrella. A women commissioner will be appointed to protect the rights of women. He also assured the house of full protection to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and her children, and if needed, the law will be amended for the purpose.

Earlier, participating in the debate, the opposition members called for a new approach to the center-state relations and demanded autonomy for the states. Later, the house adopted the motion of thanks to the president's address after rejecting or allowing withdrawal of about 400 amendments. The motion was adopted in the Lok Sabha yesterday.

BJP Demands 'Immediate' Elections

BK2207102191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has demanded immediate elections in Punjab and said delay in holding them is causing much damage to the strife-torn state. Talking to newsmen at Baroda airport today, he expressed concern over the increasing incidents of kidnapping in border states. He said the BJP is in favor of debarring those propagating secessionism from contesting polls, but is opposed to amending the Constitution for the purpose.

Retired India Army Officers Arrested for Spying

BK2207090191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 22 (AFP)—Two retired Indian Army officers have been arrested and charged with entering into a criminal conspiracy to sell defence documents to Pakistan, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) said Monday.

The agency quoted official sources as identifying the two as Hasinuddin Khan and Mohammad Israr and said they had been arrested under the Official Secrets Act, but did not give their rank at retirement.

It said Mr. Khan was caught while allegedly handing classified documents dealing with Indian Army unit strength and logistics to a man employed by the Pakistani High Commission (Embassy).

No date of arrest was given, but UNI said the two were charged before New Delhi's chief metropolitan magistrate last week.

Spokesman Reiterates Adherence to Bilateral Accord

BK2207152291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] India today reiterated its stand that Indo-Sri Lankan Accord, signed in 1987, still provides a viable basis and framework for resolving the ethnic issue. An official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that India has always stood by the Accord and will continue to do so. He clarified this when asked for his comment on the former Sri Lankan president, Mr. Jayewardene's interview which appeared in a section of the press.

Five 'Militants' Killed, Judge Escapes Attack

BK2007041891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, the district and session judge of Patiala escaped an attempt on his life, while three hard core militants are among five militants killed in separate encounters since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, some militants struck at the residence of the district and session judge Patiala located in (Baladari) early this morning. One police head constable was killed in exchange of fire between the militants and the policemen on guard duty at his residence.

Media Programs To Counter Pakistani Propaganda

BK1907100691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] In the Lok Sabha, a demand was made for strengthening the AIR [All India Radio] and TV network to counter the Pakistani propaganda in the border areas of the country. Raising the issue during the zero hour, Mr. D.D. Joshi, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], said the programs of the electronic media are not very effective at present.

Vice President Confers with Syrian Counterpart

JN2307074991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi—Indian Vice President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma this evening received Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy chairman of the National Progressive Front, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with bilateral ties and means of enhancing them, the situation in the Middle East, and issues of common interest.

Dr. Sharma spoke of India's firm position on Middle East issues, saying: India has continued to support Arab rights and positions at international forums. He affirmed the strength of historical ties between India and Arab states.

Dr. Mashariqah expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Indian Government for its positive stands on Arab issues, foremost among which is the Palestine question. He also stressed the need to enhance and develop Syrian-Indian ties in the interest of the two peoples and states.

Dr. Mashariqah and the delegation accompanying him arrived in New Delhi this morning en route to Afghanistan on a cordial visit that will last for several days at the invitation of the peace front in the Republic of Afghanistan. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with Afghan Government officials.

Janata Leader Demands Resignation of Party Chief

BK2007162891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] The differences among the top leaders of the Janata Dal came into the open today with Mr. Ajit Singh asking the party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai to quit, holding him jointly responsible with Mr. V.P. Singh for the party's debacle in the recent elections. In a letter to Mr. V.P. Singh released in New Delhi today, Mr. Ajit Singh questioned Mr. Bommai's continuing as Janata Dal president even after the near-total rout of the party in six states. He said with Bommai as president, Mr. V.P. Singh has been running the party without having any responsibility. Mr. Ajit Singh said that lack of party infrastructure was responsible for the failures of the Janata Dal and its electoral debacle.

About the formula for reserving 60 percent party posts for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, backward classes, minorities and women, he said that with Mr. V.P. Singh accepting the post of the leader of the Parliamentary party, it has become impossible to implement the formula. Criticizing what he called the sheer hypocrisy of the prevailing situation, Mr. Ajit Singh accused Mr. V.P. Singh of making a lot of hue and cry in the public about the 60 percent formula.

Reacting to the letter, Mr. V.P. Singh said that the party's Political Affairs Committee will be meeting on Monday [22 July] to take a decision on Mr. Ajit Singh's demand for Mr. Bommai's resignation. Asked by newsmen to comment on the charge that he led the Janata Dal to defeat, he said: Why blame me alone?

Meanwhile, the Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has advised Mr. Bommai to give up the post if a younger leader wants to take over. He was reacting to Mr. Ajit Singh's letter in New Delhi today. Mr. Patnaik however disproved of Mr. Ajit Singh making public his letter as it relates to the internal matter of the party.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia To Buy Food Products

BK2107151091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] India has bagged orders worth $10 million to supply food products, including Basmati rice, to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The chairman of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Mr. Gukul Patnaik, disclosed this to newsmen in Dubayy. Mr. Patnaik is heading a seven-member Indian delegation to the Gulf to explore the market in the region.

Tamil Nadu Government Lifts Fishing Ban

BK2107152091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu government has decided to lift the ban on fishing up to 5 nautical miles of the international boundary line. The chief minister, Miss. Jayalalitha, said that this decision was taken in view of the difficulties faced by the fishermen in going about their business. In a press note issued in Madras, the minister, however, said that the vessels going for fishing will have to be in touch with the Navy or Coast Guard vessels through wireless or other communication systems to be provided to them. As already reported, the state government imposed a ban earlier this month on fishing in view of the law and order situation and to check the movement of Sri Lankan Tamil militants.

Samajwadi Party Opposes Defense Budget Cut

BK2107130291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] The Samajwadi Janata Party has demanded that government should make a categorical statement in Parliament that under no circumstances, there will be any cut in defense expenditure. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, party spokesman Dr. Subramaniam Swamy said if the reports about IMF insisting on India to reduce its defense expenditure are true, it is a matter of great concern because the country already lags behind in defense modernization.

Delhi Reports Economic Survey for 1990-91

BK2007092491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] The annual inflation rate during 1990-91 went up to 12.1 percent from 9.1 percent in the previous year. Industrial growth was lower by 0.2 percent and stood at 8.4 percent for the year. The economic survey presented to Parliament today by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, says the foreign exchange reserves dropped to a precarious level of 2,386 crore rupees at the end of last month. The reserves stood at 5,050 crore rupees at the beginning of August last year and came down to 4,388 crores by the end of the financial year. The survey says that because of significant withdrawals from the foreign exchange reserves, the fiscal situation deteriorated sharply during 1990-91. The measures adopted during the year turned out to be inadequate and the year ended with a fiscal deficit of about 8.4 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP]. Trade deficit increased by 38 percent during the year. It went upto 10,644 crore rupees during 1990-91 as compared to 7,735 crores in the previous year. In rupee terms, exports registered a 17.5 percent growth, while imports went up by 21.9 percent. Referring to the debt relief scheme introduced last year, the survey says it contributed significantly to the deterioration in the fiscal situation. The scheme also put a constraint on credit supplies for productive purposes and may affect the rural credit delivery system.

The survey says though the estimated growth rate of the GDP will be 5 percent, there is an urgent need to correct the structural imbalances in the economy. Recent measures, like adjustments in the value of the rupee and trade reforms, are aimed at improving the international competitiveness of exports and to curb the demand for imports. These measures will help stabilize the balance of payment situation in the short term and improve the balance of trade in the medium term.

About the strategy for the future, the survey says fiscal adjustment will be the main plank of the macro-level management of the economy during the current financial year, to be followed by fiscal consolidation. This will enable the country to manage the balance of payment situation and keep inflation within limits. The survey says the need is for reduction in the internal debt through slashing of the fiscal deficit. In the medium term, efforts must also be made to reduce external debt as a proportion of GDP and rely on our own resources to finance the development process. The survey points out that macro economic management is going to be a difficult task during 1991-92 even with a normal monsoon, stable oil prices, and fiscal reforms. There will be need to eliminate waste and inefficiency. The performance of public sector enterprises has to be improved.

Iran

Rafsanjani's Remarks on Exporting Revolution Viewed

NC2007111891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0343 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Central News Unit's Research Group Commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. The Islamic Revolution is a new phenomenon in the Islamic world and a new message in the current age. The Islamic Revolution is the messenger of Muslim alertness, awareness, self-confidence, and self-reliance worldwide. The Muslims of the world, who lived in a moral, political, and ideological standstill for many years before the Islamic Revolution of Iran, came to realize their valuable role in the political and social developments of their society following the Islamic Revolution. [passage omitted]

The West has always claimed that Islam cannot conform its teachings with today's living conditions. This view stems from the fact that the West is alien to Islam and is not sufficiently aware of the true extent of the strength and stability of Islam's teachings. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that since the outset of the revolution many efforts have been exerted to establish Islamic ideals in society with some success. One of the examples is the fundamental change in the country's penal and economic policies. It should be emphasized that more efforts should be exerted to clarify the meaning and framework of Islam's political, economic, and social policies. Obviously, Islam enjoys extremely strong rules that stem from divine teachings and the formation of meetings both at home and abroad and further discussions and deliberations on Islamic rules and interpretations is of great importance.

This is even more significant because in many Islamic countries strong Islamic movements seeking to establish Islamic governments and Islamic rules can be seen. These movements have been generally successful and have sparked an awakening in their nations. These movements want a specific pattern of an Islamic government for the management of the country and for the solution of the problems of their Islamic societies. Our country—as the center of the Islamic world—has the mission to support Muslims and pro-Islamic movements.

In a meeting with the Iranian diplomats abroad and the assistants and directors of the Foreign Ministry, our country's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic and said that exporting the revolution can never be achieved through force. He said the best way to export the revolution is to prepare conditions in the country which will make others realize the correctness of our path. This can be achieved, the president noted, through mutual cooperation among the Islamic countries and through further awareness of Islamic realities.

Daily Praises Khamene'i Remarks

NC2007202091 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed commentary: "An Opportunity for Admonition"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful.

"Some try to spread pessimism toward the authorities and the government among the people. They should know that this is treason. They should know that I will not tolerate the continuation of such behavior." After speaking these words, Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution, went on to warn the guild members and bazaar merchants in the country's cities: "They have been given the opportunity to be admonished so that they can come to their senses. Our nation today is united, just as it was in every post-revolution stage, and it stands behind the government's officials and in the service of the goals of the revolution. Those who try to use any means or resort to any kind of false propaganda or malpractice to create a rift among the people, or between the people and the country's officials, those servants whose whole life is devoted to the service of the Islamic system, or the valuable president we have today, should know that it is a crime, it is treason, it is no small deed".

Although these remarks by the revolution's esteemed leader are adressed to every single individual in the country, nevertheless he acted wisely in delivering them at a gathering of guild members and bazaaris. In the first portion of his remarks, the leader of the revolution criticized those guild members and bazaaris who tried to exploit the situation resulting from the imposed war and the economic pressure inflicted by Islam's enemies to reap quick profits while refusing to pay their fair share of taxes.

The meaning of the esteemed leader's statement that "trying to spread pessimism about the authorities and the system among the people is treason" is clear.

This was not an effort to forestall criticism. "Constructive criticism" to improve the situation is not only acceptable but necessary. The point is that such criticism should not attempt to cast doubt on the good motives and integrity of the officials and should not obstruct the system's efforts to preserve principles and ideals. "Criticism" is acceptable and necessary, but there should be no talk of enmity toward and disagreements with the compassionate, devoted, and active forces of the system. The esteemed leader of the revolution explicitly criticized two groups in his recent remarks.

The first group consisted of those who do not meet their just obligations to the system; that is, those who resort to various despicable tricks and ploys to avoid paying taxes. The second group consisted of those who undermine "public trust" in the authorities and the system.

It is indisputable that the nation has supported the authorities since the beginning of the revolution, including at the most critical stages in its turbulent history. From the beginning, however, there were also those who tried to sow pessimism toward the system among the poeple and to raise doubts about the motives of the authorities by all means.

This problem existed during the imposed war and in other critical stages in the revolution's history. Today it manifests itself in another way and has inflicted and continues to inflict serious damage on the system. The warning by the leader of the revolution is actually a warning about the critical nature of these problems. "Public trust" is the main capital of the revolution and of the compassionate authorities of the system. Any effort, albeit even a well-intentioned one, that may undermine public trust in the authorities will ultimately harm the revolution and the principles of the system. The clear warning by the esteemed leader of the revolution proves that everyone should recognize certain limits as far as possible, so that we can avoid the slightest deviation from our principles, which only adds fuel to the enemy's fire.

Habibi on Opposition to 'Alien' Forces in Region

LD2307102291 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 23 July, IRNA—Government Spokesman Hasan Habibi expressed Iran's opposition to presence of alien forces in the region as well as stationing of rapid deployment forces in Turkey. Speaking at his weekly press conference, Habibi who is also first vice-president told reporters that the alien forces are to safeguard the interests of superpowers. Presence of foreign forces around and near Iranian borders will result in insecurity in the region.

He declined to comment on Iran's reaction toward Syria's acceptance of the U.S. peace plan. He said that details of what has been accepted by Syria are not clear yet. "Announcing any official stand requires full knowledge of what they have accepted," he said.

Turning to government's policies to reinforce the eastern borders of the country, he said barriers have been set up at the borders, more law enforcement forces have been stationed and cooperation with Pakistan has been increased in this respect.

On the fate of the Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) kept in Iraq, he said the government has asked Iraq to provide a clear response on status of some 5,000 Iranian POWs still in Iraq. More on the issue he added that there is the possibility that some of the POWs may have left Iraq, some have decided to remain and some may have been martyred. The first vice-president added that contrary to previous favorable attitude of Baghdad on status of POWs, the Iraqi Government has so far given no information in this connection.

Daily Lauds Vice President's Warning to Officials

NC2107094391 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Need for More Calculated Decisions"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful.

We are on the eve of reconstruction, and we should honestly accept the fact that at this stage there are complicated and sensitive problems which, if not more sensitive than the problems during the war, are not less so, either.

During the war, people tried to limit their expectations. They even ignored their own facilities for the sake of the war front so the combatants of Islam could fight the savage enemies both at the front and behind it with the peace of mind that the system was strong.

What the people did was right. But today there is no war, and it is felt that the people's expectations, naturally, have risen. They have demands, and the inability to fulfill them will be unjustifiable.

Today, the decision-making centers of the country have introduced a collective plan for economic problems. This plan was approved by the Majles and the Coucil of Guardians and is being implemented as the Five-Year Plan. According to this plan, decisions should be made and measures should be taken. In some of the cases, we naturally should accept the implementation of a kind of "economic austerity" plan to transcend the present situation. It is an accepted fact that this plan is necessary to our future and that it will have definite benefits in the long run. But the issue here is that the people's situation should be studied. Without considering the people, every program—even if correct and based on principles—is doomed to fail.

The main point is that the decisions should not seriously upset the daily lives of the people or ultimately make them intolerable. If such decisions are not based on correct principles, they may possibly harm the people's lives seriously and even ruin some lives. We hope this will not happen.

The first vice president's strongly worded warning to some government institution directors against making rash decisions on unrestrained price increases, although it came late, can be effective if the system's officials take it seriously and make careful decisions.

One theory is that some government officials and directors are trying to compensate for their budget shortages by increasing prices for services and goods. Although this is the easiest solution, it is not the only one. Reduction of losses, more efforts to reduce the common production price, increasing profits, and so forth are wise and principled solutions to this problem and should be considered for each case, and sound decisions based on principles should be adopted. Furthermore, effective steps should be taken to solve problems while avoiding further difficulties and pressures on society.

The strong warning by the first vice president to some government institution directors is a sound start for confronting unsound decisions. The public expects this warning to be seriously and decisively heeded by the various government officials. Otherwise, the people will be the ones to suffer the most pressure. In most cases, there are better and more reliable solutions to this problem.

Commentary Discusses Upcoming Majles Elections

*NC1907125291 Tehran SALAM in Persian
9 Jul 91 p 2*

[Majid Sa'idi commentary: "The Need for the Healthy Convocation of Elections for the Fourth Majles—in the margin of remarks by Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Abdollah Nuri"]

[Excerpts] Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri's remarks at the political-security seminar of governorates are especially significant in the context of efforts to call for elections to the fourth tenure of the Islamic majles, which is the trustworthy way to guarantee the people's sovereignty in forging their political destiny. [passage omitted]

Naturally, the fourth majles elections are extraordinarily sensitive as the first such elections following the demise of the founder of our hallowed system. The factions which had no popular support in past decades have been seeking to eliminate the will of the people in forging the great destiny of their country. These factions took the form of various political groups and sects, terrorists, and anti-Imam individuals and have been trying to impose their will by use of arms, coercion, and creation of cliques, on the Hezbollah nation and the masses.

It is almost certain that on the eve of the convocation of the fourth majles elections, by means of new tactics and subterfuge, they will try to avenge the defeat and humiliation they suffered in the three rounds of the previous majles elections, in the presidential elections, and in the referendum of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

These bands and cliques, who have no popular support, continue their machinations by seeking to get close to the governors-general, the governors, and the provincial and district officials. This is worth noting in the context of the important remarks yesterday by the interior minister, the highest authority in the executive branch.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nuri said: The governorates should be conscientiously impartial and should pay attention to legal and shari'a obligations to guarantee that the elections are clean. In addition to the adequate supervision and attention on their own part, they should encourage others to do so as well. All our efforts should be geared to respect the opinions and views of the people and the health of the election atmosphere. God willing, those who are elected will prove useful to the system and the people.

In the past decade, the Interior Ministry has proved its competence and ability in holding sound elections and will continue to prove, in the fourth round of majles elections, that the country's security is far greater than what can be manipulated by cliques, bands, and covert hands which can only operate in isolation. It is imperative, therefore, that the masses of the millions of the Imam's ummah extend their multifaceted support and cooperation in this task.

Commentary Views 'Equilibrium,' Abuse of Freedom

*NC1907123391 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
6 Jul 91 p 2*

[Seyyed Ata'ollah Mohajerani commentary: "Moderation is Best"]

[Text] God created nature with an astonishing degree of geometry. Every phenomenon has its proportion, and God has created each phenomenon within a specific framework and "proportion": Verily, for all things has God appointed A due proportion [Koranic verse]. If the sun, which is one of the creations, comes closer to earth, it will burn everything.

If the heat and light of the sun exceed their proportions or if the distance of the sun is increased and a heavy cold and shadow is cast on the earth, human, animal, and plant life will be destroyed.

The same applies to human and religious concepts and human skills. An equilibrium should be found and we should move around the axis of this equilibrium. The correct recognition of the nature and proportion of the word "freedom" is extremely significant. If we do not behave correctly and do not benefit from the gift of freedom correctly, we will become the enemy of freedom. The least we will have achieved is to prove that our society and we ourselves have not yet gained enough maturity to benefit from freedom.

During the first years of the revolution, many leftist and rightist groups resorted to the use of weapons and force due to the free atmosphere that prevailed in the country. They did this to impose their point of view and in so doing, proved very well that they were enemies of the people and of freedom.

Once again, thanks to the new conditions of the country and the revolution, the end of the imposed war, and the stability of the system and the revolution, we are witnessing a preponderance of view, ideas, criticism, and disagreements. We need to recognize the nature of these disagreements and criticism. If their main objective is to make people lose their trust in government officials and servants of the people, then apparently "freedom" will once again have become a stepping stone toward power.

Acquiring power in a system and society in which the institutions controlling the country are based on the people's votes is not an ugly and unsightly thing. But if people or groups continuously propagate disappointment and destroy others instead of expressing their point of view, and if they reap benefits from freedom by destroying others, then their support of freedom is seriously in question.

Paper Supports Rafsanjani's Economic Policies

NC2107161491 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Jul 91 pp 1, 16

[Mohammad Kazem Anbarluyi editorial: "A Basic Question"]

[Text] We listened with great interest to the president's compassionate remarks on the country's economic problems during yesterday's Friday prayers.

The president said: "We want to transform our centralized, war-time economy into a balanced, peace-time one. We are, however, facing some very serious problems, including increases in the prices of certain goods produced by state-owned factories. We were in a dangerous position during the war, and many things were not done because we were unable or unwilling to do them. Whatever the reason for the present situation, we must ask whether it can be tolerated now."

Higher prices for goods and services are inevitable if we are to achieve a balanced and sound economy. The system, the government, and the Majles have all realized this after exerting their "expert" efforts.

The programs approved by the Policymaking Council set up by the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and the five-year plan, which was endorsed by the Majles, have all recognized the fact that the continuation of a policy of centralization could place the country's economy in a vicious spiral in which subsidies for goods and services lead to ever higher budget deficits and ultimately to additional loans from the banking system, resulting in ever higher prices! How long could this vicious spiral continue?!

Observers believe that the former policy was effective in the short term, like a strong dose of medicine that keeps a sick person going! This medicine did, however, eventually lose its effectiveness, and had this policy continued we would have witnessed its funeral. The chaotic situation in the Eastern bloc and the dire straits of socialist economies in almost half of the world provide the best proof of this.

Furthermore, observers believe that this policy ultimately benefited the capitalist leeches. After 10 years of pursuing this course, its supporters should not be the ones shouting that "the gap between the rich and poor has increased tenfold!!" In other words, this policy could not even be justified on the grounds that it helped the deprived and the poor. According to the president's analysis, this policy was tantamount to taxing the poor to give to the rich.

In his Friday sermon yesterday, the president explained: "We must tell the people the truth. It would be false to tell them that the government is forcing prices up and that the way to bring them down is to give oil to the bullies to devour...!! You have no idea how much money the government owes the Central Bank. If you knew the figures, you would be shocked!"

The truth is that during these years the oil revenue that should have been spent to improve the economic infrastructure we inherited from the monarchy and to invest for future generations was given out as subsidies to the poor and the rich equally. Of course, the rich benefited from these subsidies more than the poor.

Right in our own backyard, Turkey is today working on a 20-billion [currency not stated] dam-construction project—(Gap)—to supply water and electricity to the entire area by the year 2000, while we have problems meeting the energy needs of our own industries....

We do not want to belittle the part the war and the enemy's plots played in upsetting our economy, but those who support the people have long warned of the same harsh realities being described now and no one listened to them. Now that our president has courageously put his own honor and reputation on the line and entered the fray in this arena of the religious struggle, those people who are responsible for the country's economic woes have been quick to expose themsevles and use the newspaper that supports them to defend their obsolete approach, rather than acknowledging that the very policies they defend brought about the defeat of one political camp and the collapse of dozens of countries before imperialism.

If they reject the policies approved by the imam and the leadership and the programs approved by the Majles, then they must tell us what policies they favor. Moreover, they must tell us what their plans are for this transition from a "centralized" system to a "balanced" one and what solutions they have to offer to combat inflation, high prices, unemployment, shortages, the multi-rate system for foreign exchange and goods, and lower production, all problems they helped create.

ABRAR Criticizes Government Over Price Rises

NC2007194391 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Jul 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "There Is No More Time for Tactlessness"]

[Excerpt] It is truly amazing how there are still certain people at the head of some government departments who make decisions that are totally at odds with the conditions prevailing in society and that are completely lacking in prudence, farsightedness, and expediency.

This situation is the result not of a simple lack of coordination among executive departments but of total ignorance about society and its problems.

Was it not decided that prices would not be increased and the rates of public services would not be changed without authorization from the Supreme Economic Council? Is the bus service company an exception to this rule?

Was it not agreed that any price increase authorized by the Supreme Economic Council would be implemented in such a way that the burden would not fall on the deprived stratum of society; that is, those with low or fixed incomes?

Speaking at his weekly meeting with the media yesterday, the first vice president said: "As a result of various economic factors, there will be changes in some prices. The government believes that this should be accompanied by measures for wage and salary earners so that price fluctuations do not place a burden on them."

The first vice president went on to say: "If we could raise prices once and for all and do the same with salaries, then the problems of the salaried strata would be eliminated. Until then, however...."

Well, what should we do until then? Should this tactlessness by some officials be allowed to continue until the people's fury and indignation subsides?

The first vice president said in this regard: "Prices are raised under two circumstances. In the first, managers raise prices of goods and services on a trial basis, as an experiment. At times, however, they act mistakenly. In any case, the government performs its duty in this regard, and in some cases it has even prevented price increases."

The first vice president certainly knows that the economic conditions in the country and the situation of the majority of the people, who are in the lower or fixed income groups, is such that the idea of "experimenting" with raising prices in no way accords with the public good. Are we to believe that every time prices are poised to increase, they will do so experimentally? The fact is that they never ever come down.

The outcome of the experiment by the bus service company is that the people consider the government to be responsible for all kinds of price increases because of prevailing economic conditions. As they wait for buses under the blazing summer sun, they have no inclination to think about "economic factors."

The outcome of the experiment by the bus service company will be that the furious people will take out their anger on the company's buses.

The outcome of the bus service company's experiment will be that the taxi drivers will now not be satisfied with the already high prices they charge. As a result, the rates of the turquoise-colored taxis will suddenly rise all over the city, and then the result will be.... The experiment of raising prices should be discarded and we should seek only to stabilize them. [passage omitted]

France, Germany Urged To Resist U.S. Pressure

NC2107184591 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Jul 91 p 12

[N. Shahryari commentary: "Evidence of U.S., Israeli Troublemaking in Iran's Relations With Foreign Countries"]

[Excerpts] While visiting Iran last week, the German economic affairs minister announced that his country would not complete work on the Bushehr power plant. This week, just when the talks between France and Iran on resolving their financial dispute had entered their final stage, France refused to supply Iran with the enriched uranium to which it is entitled as a result of its 10 percent share in Eurodif.

The Bushehr power plant is among the most expensive projects ever undertaken in the country. More than $10 billion has already been spent and another $3 billion is needed to complete it. Mr. Moellemann, the German economic affairs minister, attributed the German Government's unwillingness to continue work on the project to Iran's possible use of this new technology for military purposes. He also said that because of the Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union, the German Government will not help build nuclear power plants similar to the one planned for Bushehr. He added that Iran could use the Bushehr power station to produce natural gas in view of its large deposits of this resource.

Work on the Bushehr power plant was suspended as a result of Iraq's air attacks during the war and has not yet been resumed.

On another front, after years of talks hampered by France's support for the Iraqi regime during the war, the financial dispute between France and Iran ran into difficulties just as it was on the verge of being solved. The French suddenly reneged on the provision in an agreement whereby Iran was to receive enriched uranium in return for its participation in Eurodif (to the level of four to five percent of the factory's production). The French said this move was the result of the fact that no nuclear facility was operating in Iran. The newspaper LE MONDE, which is close to government circles, reported: As far as we know, Iran does not have any nuclear reactor or plant, and therefore it does not need enriched uranium.

France announced this move at the same time that the French delegation to the talks was promising full cooperation to settle the financial dispute.

Meanwhile, the French paper LIBERATION gave a more truthful account when it reported at the beginning of the week: In view of the Iraqi case, the United States warned France about the possibility that Iran may be undertaking a similar program to produce enriched uranium. The paper noted: "The White House expressed its concern over the possibility of Iran's gaining access to nuclear material to the Elysee Palace." This publication adds: "Washington believes that 10 years after the Israeli Air Force destroyed the Tammuz reactor in Iraq, France should not bow down to the 'old villians'."

If the report in the LIBERATION is correct, then the United States and Israel have blatantly interfered in an attempt to harm Iran's relations with Germany and France. All developments since the end of the oil war bear eloquent testimony to a plan to disarm the region and stockpile weapons in Israel.

The question of disarmament is used as a pretext for raising all kinds of irrelevant issues. Zionist-influenced Western publications are playing a leading role in the attempts to divert public opinion and spread fear and to block all avenues to the peaceful use of nuclear resources by developing countries. It is not too farfetched to imagine that Japan's refusal to complete the petrochemical complex in Iran may be related to this poisonous atmosphere created by the Western media, in which Israel has played a key role.

The Israeli regime seeks to block the regional Muslim nations' access to higher technology by heightening international anxieties. Meanwhile, France and Germany, which could well be suitable commercial partners for the Islamic Republic of Iran, are being used to further the diabolical schemes of the United States and Zionism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated its desire for ties with France and Germany, and the leaders of these two countries have expressed their desire to visit Iran. Therefore, at this time when a favorable atmosphere has been created in our foreign relations, the United States is continuing its long-standing animosity toward Iran's revolutionary system and stops at nothing to harm the Muslim Iranian people. By exerting pressure on its allies in the oil war, it is trying to demonstrate its strength.

What arouses the greatest surprise is the German and French leaders' complete submissiveness before the belligerent United States. We had not expected such behavior from the mature people of these two countries. How can their pride allow them to become the hostages of the United States in this way, at the cost of their own interests? An improvement in the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with Germany and France benefits the people of these two countries as well as our revolutionary people.

We expect these two countries to honor their commitments, not sacrifice their long-term interests at the archsatan's behest. The Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes to promote economic progress. U.S. insinuations about the possible use of these resources for military purposes are nothing but attempts to deceive international public opinion.

Envoy to FRG Discusses Bilateral Ties

NC1907194591 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 10 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" interview with Hoseyn Musavian, Islamic Republic of Iran ambassador to Germany, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [ABRAR] Mr. Musavian. First, I wish to ask your opinion on the remarks by the German chancellor in the United States on broadening relations with Iran on condition that the Western hostages in Lebanon are released.

[Musavian] This report was published citing the German chancellor and later was denied. Therefore, on ties between Iran and Germany, hostages are not a precondition and have no connection with our relations with Germany.

[ABRAR] The joint Iranian-German communique announced that a panel will be created to resolve differences over the Bushehr nuclear power plant, but the German economic affairs minister denied this on his return to Germany. What was the reason?

[Musavian] Prior to Minister Moellemann's arrival in Tehran, the German Government issued a statement on its refusal to cooperate with Iran on completing the Bushehr power plant. The Iranian-German joint commission then held detailed discussions, during which Iran expressed its dissatisfaction with the one-sided announcement on the issue, and we stressed that the agreement on the Bushehr plant is reliable, accords with international regulations, and that Germany is obligated to honor and implement it.

Regarding the German parliament's recent decision to cease cooperation on this project, Moellemann said this type of reactor will not be manufactured or used in Germany hereafter or exported to any other country. He said Iran cannot be an exception to this decision.

We stressed that Iran does not accept such a decision, and it was finally decided that a joint committee should be set up to resolve this dispute. This committee is to begin work next month, and representatives of concerned government departments—particularly those dealing with nuclear power stations—will attempt to resolve this issue.

[ABRAR] Considering there is evidence that, contrary to your remarks, we have not reached a consensus on completing the power plant with the Germans, and that reports of other countries being approached to complete the power station are being disseminated, how do you account for this contradiction?

[Musavian] The establishment of a working committee does not mean attaining a compromise for completing the power plant. In my view, those countries which have the nuclear technology seem to have agreed to an arcane coordination on not exporting nuclear technology to the region.

[ABRAR] Considering that in your opinion a change in relations depends on a change in the conditions of those relations, what guarantee is there regarding Iran's relations with Germany that made you announce that Iranian-German relations will be strategic?

[Musavian] No one can guarantee relations between countries 100 percent. But Germany has been a valuable trading partner for Iran before and after the revolution and did not join the U.S. economic embargo against Iran. It also was the first country to proclaim Iraq as the aggressor. All in all, our ties with Germany have been cordial.

On the future of the Persian Gulf as well, we have common views with Germany, such as the need for continued cooperation among the region's countries based on their own plans and ideas for the Persian Gulf region. Therefore, there is no reason for our not having extensive and cordial ties with Germany.

[ABRAR] Do you not think that Germany's opposition to the decree by Ayatollah Khomeyni (peace be on him) on the apostate "Salman Rushdie", the summoning of the German ambassador from Iran, the ban on the sale and export of advanced technology to Tehran, the negative stance against Iran in international organizations, and permission for groups opposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran to operate will hinder strategic ties with Germany?

[Musavian] The Rushdie issue is not limited to one country. All European countries took similar steps and later, when they realized the facts, they corrected them. But regarding criticism on the transfer of technology to Iran, Germany has no such restrictions, except on nucelar or military technology. Regarding cultural activities, there have been no changes in Germany in the past two years. We only had one problem, and that was on the Frankfurt trade fair, which has now been resolved.

On the counter-revolutionary groups, their operation is not restricted only to one Western country. But the German Government has prevented the transfer of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] leadership to the country. Therefore, the overall German stance on Iran in international organizations has been positive.

[ABRAR] In your view, what is the reason for Genscher's insulting attitude during his visit to the refugee camp, and what reaction did you have to this?

[Musavian] As soon as we entered Bakhtaran, the program for the Bakhtaran governor-general's meeting with Genscher was scanned, and at one point in the program it was mentioned that the Germans would not be able to inspect the hospital set up by the Germans. Genscher asked the governor-general to permit the Germans to visit the hospital, which was agreed upon. Unfortunately, despite the German foreign minister's agreement with the governor-general, when we reached the site we saw that the two helicopters which were to bring the German correspondents had not been sent there. During the inspection, we inquired the reason, and it turns out there had been some problems in conveying the message to the helicopters and therefore contact could not be made. This issue was resolved at a later meeting.

[ABRAR] Could you give any explanation to why Genscher used German helicopters?

[Musavian] The Germans had asked us if they could use German helicopters for Genscher's entourage, and we discussed the issue with the authorities concerned, who agreed that Genscher should use the German helicopter. This did not pose any problems as far as we were concerned, as Germany already had 20 helicopters in Iran for assisting the refugees and their use by the party did not cause any problems for us.

[ABRAR] What was the need for holding the international conference on carpets in Germany?

[Musavian] There is no doubt that the Iranian carpet market abroad is facing difficulties. In view of the fact that the greatest number of Iranian carpets is exported to Germany and the focus of the carpet market's activity is Germany, we took steps to hold the first international conference on Iranian carpets in Germany to boost exports, production, and sales. For the first time, at this conference 200 officials of the department for carpet sales, scholars and prominent carpet artisans, traders, connoisseurs from various cities in Iran and from 10 other countries congregated and held discussions on expertise for three days. They presented their recommendations for improving the ways and means of production, export, sales, and publicity, which was conveyed to the respected cabinet members.

[ABRAR] To what extent is the German policy influenced by the United States?

[Musavian] At present, it is not clear for us whether the German policy has been coordinated with the United States on its expansion of ties with Iran, ways to resolve regional disputes, and the regional cooperation system.

[ABRAR] Has Germany displayed any intention of mediating in Iranian-U.S. relations and the hostage issue?

[Musavian] In the past few years, all the Western countries have, in their meetings with Iranian officials, expressed their views on the hostages. Germany is no exception. We will not deny that some countries, such as Switzerland, have been directly assigned for this purpose, but not Germany.

[ABRAR] How do you view the role of a unified Germany in a united Europe, and will the United States use unified Germany to pressure Europe and as a replacement for socialism?

[Musavian] Prior to its unification, Germany was a definite power in Europe. Now it has attained a new ability. In the current circumstances, Germany and France have the first word in Europe and are among the more priviliged European powers. After a few years, it is natural that Germany should have a greater role in a united Europe, as compared to all the other countries.

The unification of Germany was not very welcome to the Western countries and the United States. Naturally, the United States is apprehensive about the emergence of Germany as a separate politico-economic superpower, and it is perhaps for this reason that the United States wants Germany to join it in world leadership, which is probably a ploy to preempt any individual future role for Germany.

German policy regarding the progress on the plan for a united Europe is based on expansion of extensive relations with the Soviet Union, without hostilities with the United States.

[ABRAR] What is the reason for the announcement of the expulsion of refugees from Germany?

[Musavian] After the developments in the Eastern bloc, Germany was faced with the problem of refugees from these countries, and the number of refugees into Germany from the Soviet Union and other East European countries continued to mount. Naturally, the German Government had to impose some restrictions and the latest policies are in this regard.

[ABRAR] Have any special steps been taken to absorb the repatriated Iranian refugees who have not committed any crimes?

[Musavian] On the returning Iranian refugees who have not committed any crime, there is no problem Some of these repatriates had met me even before the end of their tenure and prior to such an announcement by the German Government regarding the refugees. Most of them are living in squalid conditions, and I advised them to return home and live a dignified life.

[ABRAR] Is the expansion of cultural ties also part of the programs between the two countries?

[Musavian] In 1988 a cultural agreement was signed between the two countries by the respective foreign ministers which envisaged the various aspects of the expansion of cultural relations. In this new chapter in the broadening of our relations, we plan to expand cultural relations by implementing this agreement and incorporating new levels of cooperation.

During the recent visit by a high-level German cultural delegation to Iran, a protocol was signed and according to which a huge Iranian cultural festival, the largest since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, will be held at Dusseldorf from 11 September for one month.

Beginning 24 September, an exhibition on tourism in Iran will be held in Cologne in Germany and will continue for a week. Our country's minister for culture and Islamic guidance probably will visit Germany for the opening of the festival and will explore ways to expand cultural ties between the two countries.

In the current year, as a reciprocal gesture, a German cultural week will be held in Iran. The Hafiz cultural institute probably will begin operating in Germany this year, and the German Goethe Institute will reopen in Iran and will operate within the framework of our rules and regulations.

Paper Says Baker Tour Brings 'Humiliation'

LD2307092191 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 23 July, IRNA—A morning daily Tuesday warned the Middle Eastern countries to beware of the new U.S. conspiracy for further stabilizing Israel and forcing Arabs to yield to a humiliating retreat.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in an editorial titled 'America, hated by nations' noted: "Arab reactionaries have knelt down before the U.S. but the U.S. is persuading them to do the same before Israel as a sign of their good will." This policy needs to be confronted, the daily noted, adding, "the time is limited for the Arab nations who must move swiftly. [punctuation as received]

It said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's fifth tour of the Middle East, ended Monday, which aimed at lifting Arab economic sanctions against Israel, would bring nothing for the regional nations but further humiliation. "America should understand that no Muslim state in the region thinks good of the U.S. stand toward the regional nations," wrote the article.

"Even if America could win the subservience of corrupt heads of states in the region through threats or blackmailing, still the nations consider America as their number one enemy," the daily commented. It noted that the visits George Bush and James Baker paid to the region was a test which further proved inefficiency of Western propaganda on regional developments.

"Tight security measures in Greece and Turkey, including deployment of a 4,500-strong law enforcement force in Istanbul, could not silence the protest of the regional people against the U.S.," the editorial said.

It concluded by saying that regardless of the recent developments in the region, one thing has remained unchanged: "The deep hatred of the regional nations towards America."

Commentary Views Bush's Visit to Turkey

NC2207162491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1600 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary: "President Bush's Visit to Turkey"]

[Text] President Bush has arrived in Ankara from Athens on the first visit by a U.S. president to Turkey since 1959. President Bush, whose visit is being made at the invitation of President Ozal, is expected to hold talks with Turkish officials on the situation in Iraq and the deployment of a rapid-reaction force in Turkey, as well as the resumption of the intercommunal negotiations on the Cyprus problem.

President Bush's visit has been preceded by anti-U.S. demonstrations, and Muslims in Istanbul burned the U.S. flag after Friday prayers to protest against the visit. Many political observers feel President Bush's visit is intended to further U.S. interests in the region. They also believe that the visit is connected with the UN secretary-general's efforts to reunite Cyprus.

The UN Security Council recently endorsed a proposal for holding an international conference on the Cyprus issue. The Cyprus problem, which gained prominence when Turkish troops landed on the island in 1974, remains one of the major international disputes on which no progress has been made. Furthermore, the problem is seen as a sore point in relations between Turkey and Greece, NATO members, and U.S. allies for the past 40 years.

There have been earlier efforts by the United States to persuade the two countries to make concessions, but it now seems these efforts are being intensified in the hope that the problem can be resolved. In light of the new world order and the moves to establish security, the United States wants to protect its interests by achieving some sort of peace among its allies in the region.

Many observers believe, meanwhile, that the Turkish Government is concerned about the threat posed by its Kurdish people's demand for freedom and independence. In fact, several sources have not denied that the United States played a role in the outbreak of Kurdish agitation in Turkey. In view of all this, we must wait and see how the United States realizes its long-standing dream of entrenching its position as a superpower and protecting its interests in the region by using the trump cards it holds to bring about peace between Greece and Turkey over the Cyprus problem.

Damascus Declaration Countries' Differences Viewed

NC2007175491 Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Jul 91 p 12

[N. Shahryari commentary: "The Swiftly Approaching Crisis of the 6+2 Union"]

[Text] The meeting among the foreign ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries, Syria, and Egypt which was to have been held two days ago has been postponed. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Muhammad Musa announced that the delay was the result of other commitments on the part of some of the GCC foreign ministers, while Kuwaiti sources have refrained from commenting on the reasons for the postponement.

According to Western diplomats in Kuwait, the real reason for the postponement is continuing differences over the funding and composition of the Persian Gulf defense force the eight foreign ministers decided to set up as part of the security and economic arrangements they agreed upon at their earlier two-day meeting in Damascus and enshrined in what has come to be known as the Damascus Declaration.

Under the declaration, the GCC countries promised to give Egypt and Syria considerable economic assistance, but the latter's announcement that they were withdrawing their forces from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait prompted second thoughts.

It is being said that Egypt and Syria are dissatisfied with what they see as apathy on the part of the GCC countries. In line with the declaration, they had hoped to receive assistance worth $15 billion to put their disarrayed economies in order, but they are now watching their hopes crumble. Although the Damascus Declaration is being portrayed as a demonstration of Arab solidarity and a complement to the Arab Charter and the joint Arab defense treaty, it seems that this accord, like many others among the Arabs, has fallen victim to events. Meanwhile, Egypt still believes that its new role in the Persian Gulf is valid and that Iran should be excluded from all forms of security structures and arrangements in the region lest it use this opportunity to increase its influence among the Shiites in southern Iraq and in the Persian Gulf emirates and try to impose its political will on the littoral countries in the southern Persian Gulf.

In strongly worded remarks two weeks ago, Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa said: The Arabs will be responsbile for the security of the Persian Gulf, not Iran!

Such words may indicate that Egypt is trying hard to gain a foothold in the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, most of the Persian Gulf countries, particularly Kuwait, fear that an Egyptian and Syrian military presence provides a pretext for other countries to interfere in the political affairs of these countries.

When the Islamic Republic of Iran showed its categorical opposition to the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, the GCC countries appeared quite satisfied with the Iranian stance. Furthermore, a Kuwaiti minister recently spoke about good-neighborly relations between the GCC countries and Iran in connection with regional security arrangements and affirmed that contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran should be expanded.

As was also pointed out by Egypt, the GCC countries apparently prefer the presence of Western forces, and even though they are not interested in an Iranian presence in the southern Persian Gulf coastal region, they are not disinclined to point to Iran in order to keep Egypt and Syria from interfering in the region.

Emami-Kashani Leads Friday Prayers

LD1907115191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Today, on the seventh day of the month of Moharram, our country's mournful Muslim people arrived at the Friday prayer sites to hold the everlasting political-religious Muhammadan Friday prayers.

In Tehran, people from all strata of society were present at Tehran University to hold the week's Friday prayers, in an atmosphere full of sorrow for the martyrdom of His Holiness Aba 'Abdollah bin al-Hoseyn, peace be upon him, and his faithful comrades, with Ayatollah Emami-Kashani leading the prayers.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani began his prayer sermons with references to the 'Ashura incident.

Stressing the importance of having a sound attitude toward the mourning ceremonies, he said: The 'Ashura incident is a lesson for implementing God's laws, for removing the wrong and for making the system of thinking healthy.

He said: Mourning rites must demonstrate the movement of Imam Hoseyn in its real dimensions. To do so, one needs to have a sound grasp of Islamic culture.

Referring to perverse currents of thoughts such as U.S.-style Islam and wrong inferences from mourning ceremonies, he said: If we remove mourning gatherings and Imam's prayers from the history of Shiites, then there would be no epic, no self-denial, no self-sacrifice, and no kind of campaign against wrong. He said: mourning ceremonies must draw up the picture of guidance toward all Islamic cultures. All religious circles organizing mourning ceremonies must be character builders under the banner if Imam Hoseyn. What is of importance is the issue of guidance in the words, slogans, and uprising of Imam Hoseyn. It is the tear which is shed on the truth for implementation of objectives. [sentence as heard]

The acting Tehran Friday prayer leader then referred to the plots hatched by global arrogance to expand its influence in the region and said: Helped by its agent in the region—the Iraqi regime—the United States intends to gain a larger foothold in the region as days go by. However, what is obvious is the fact that the people, the revolution, and the Imam's line—which the leader and the government maintain and implement—shall not allow arrogance to gain influence anywhere the Islamic republic is strong.

Referring to U.S. peace plans for the Middle East, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani said: It is surprising that the heads of some countries are deceived by the kind of peace of which the United States is the guardian. They make a mistake, because the United States is only interested in the usurper Israel. He stressed: The only true path is what the Muslims in Palestine and Lebanon have followed; they have stood up against history's executioners.

The Tehran acting Friday prayer leader then warned the people inside the country to guard their solidarity. Referring to plots hatched by the arrogance, especially the United States to sow seeds of discord, he said: What is of importance is for one to refrain from sedition and divisiveness. One should not help an enemy like the United States.

Saying that one must not concede ground to the enemy by one's writings and words, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani stressed that one must observe piety and refrain from divisiveness when expressing views.

At the end of the sermon, he referred to Welfare and Social Security Week and called for strengthening the two organizations which work in these fields.

Security Council Discusses Regional Disarmament

LD1307172491 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] A Supreme National Security Council session was held today, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and attended by members, political advisers, and high-ranking military commanders. The issue of disarmament in the region, which is being raised by some powers, was discussed. In view of the many ambiguities and contradictions existing in these power's words and deeds, it was announced that the sincerity of the proposal is seriously in doubt, and that the reduction of arms in the region cannot be separated from the general reduction of arms in the world, and must also be without exception in the Middle East region.

It was also announced in the meeting that the Islamic Republic of Iran seriously regrets the waste of the the wealth of the region's people, worth billions of dollars, on the purchase and storage of arms which are often not under the control of the countries involved. The session believes that regional security is possible only through the removal of foreign influence, understanding between countries, and the ending of aggresion.

UNHCR Teams Meet at Shalamcheh Border Point

LD2207141591 Tehran IRNA in English 1217 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., 22 July, IRNA—Teams of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stationed in Iran's Khuzestan and Iraq's al-Basrah provinces held their regular meeting in the border point of Shalamcheh near here Sunday. They discussed situation of the returning Iraqi refugees and provision of their requirements after arrival in Iraq.

A member of the team in an interview with IRNA lauded Iran for its untiring efforts in meeting the medical and sanitary requirements of the Iraqi refugees. He added that medical examinations and tests performed on those who have returned home from Iran prove that they are all in perfect health and have been well taken care of while in Iran.

He added, UNHCR has assigned an Indian construction company to build settlements in al-Basrah suburbs for the refugees whose homes have been demolished during the uprising against the Iraqi regime. He regretted that UNHCR cannot guarantee the security of the returning refugees despite the assurances given by the Iraqi authorities in al-Basrah and al-Tannumah to UNHCR team in the region that all the Iraqi refugees including the draft evaders can safely return home.

The UNHCR official also said that two 260 square meter-tents for storing foodstuff have been purchased from abroad to be installed in Khuzestan and Lorestan provinces of Iran.

* 'Influential Individual' Reportedly Convicted

91AS1086a London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jun 91 pp 1, 4

[Text] At the 31 Khordad [21 June] Friday prayer service in Tehran, Mohammad Yazdi, chief justice of the national judiciary, announced that "a politically influential person in the government" has been tried and convicted, and that the court's verdict will be announced in the near future. However, Yazdi did not give the name, date of trial, length of sentence, or even where or in what court the trial took place.

Yazdi also added that another "influential person" in the regime is being prosecuted right now and that a judge is "confidentially studying his case."

Late last year the chief of the judiciary ordered the nation's courts that all trials must be public, but it appears from his Friday prayer talk that of the trials mentioned neither the one that has ended or the one currently underway was public.

In the absence of reliable information, there is much speculation about the identity of the convicted party. While some think the convicted person is an influential Majles deputy (in the Islamic Republic Majles deputies do not have parliamentary immunity), others postulate that the convicted person is an influential former minister from Mir Hoseyn Musavi's cabinet.

Informed sources in Tehran say that Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali's file has also gone through all the preliminary phases and is ready for court action. Khalkhali recently took a strong stand in opposition to the government's announced policy concerning the return of Iranian experts outside the country, and his remarks have undercut Rafsanjani's planning to bring Iranians back.

At the same Friday prayer service, Mohammad Yazdi said that the assets and property of those who are outside the country will not be returned to them. Yazdi added: Confiscated properties are now being kept in the courts, and after investigation, they will be given to the government, but in a few cases they will be given back to their original owners.

* Prophet's Foundation File Reopened Again

91AS1086b London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jun 91 p 2

[Text] Musavi-Tabrizi, the chief prosecutor, who was appointed to this position after Reyshahri's resignation, announced in Tehran that two years in prison is not enough for someone who has committed economic sabotage, and that the file of 'Ali Musavi, supervisor of the Prophet's foundation, will be opened again.

'Ali Musavi, after two trials lasting a total of almost four years, was first sentenced to death and then to two years in prison.

During 'Ali Musavi's trial the names of many of the regime's influential people came up, but none of those who were summoned to the court as witnesses or for testimony took the summons seriously or went to court. It was only rumored that Hasan Karrubi, brother of Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi, was imprisoned in connection with this case.

This trial became known in Iran as the "most politicized trial," because over the course of it the regime's various factions tried to drag each other into it. Consequently, part of the group in power wanted to see it continue, while another part wanted to quiet down the disturbance as soon as possible.

Observers are saying that the reemergence of the Prophet's Foundation case is connected with the change of the chief prosecutor.

Nepal & Bhutan

More on Nepalese Civil Servants Strike

Government Bans Strikes

BK2207115291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1146 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 22 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government banned strikes by some 110,000 government workers Monday to maintain essential services including electricity and water supplies.

The Home Ministry announced the ban on strikes by workers in the state-owned telecommunications, electricity, drug manufacturing, waste removal, water supply and health care sectors.

The move comes amid growing discontent among Nepalese civil servants who have been staging a series of strikes to demand improved pay and conditions.

Strikers face six months in prison and a fine of 1,000 rupees (25 dollars) for violating the ban, the ministry said.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala appealed to striking workers to end their action saying: "division and differences against one another might jeopardize the democracy established in the country."

Arrests, Firings Reported

BK2107120391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1151 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 21 (AFP)—Two junior civil servants were arrested Sunday, strike organisers said, as witnesses reported that more than 100 riot police stopped striking staff from entering the General Post Office here for a second day.

A Nepal Civil Servants' Organization (NCSO) spokesman said two junior civil servants from the cabinet secretariat were arrested Sunday after being suspended Friday.

The spokesman added, "All together 133, including 115 in Kathmandu and 18 persons in the districts outside the capital, have been suspended and four civil servants...were dismissed from their services" since the NCSO launched the protest three weeks ago.

There has been no official confirmation of these figures, but Home Ministry Spokesman Ramananda Vaidya denied any arrests were made Sunday.

The post office staff and other "non-official grade" civil servants have been on strike since Wednesday after agitating for more than three weeks for higher salaries and better transportation, rent, health and education benefits.

They are also demanding the repeal of a civil service act authorizing department heads to dismiss the non-official grade civil servants outright.

The act was enacted under the partyless panchayat political system that was rejected in nationwide demonstrations last year.

"The Koirala government has continued to suppress the civil servants through the use of force and has paid no attention to our grievances," the civil servants' spokesman said.

The NCSO says the strike has been supported by 90 per cent of Nepal's 140,000 civil servants.

Foreign tourists complained that the strike by staff in the country's postal services had made it difficult for them to send and receive letters. However, a General Administration Ministry spokesman said "there was no work disturbance at the ministry and all except a few have joined their duties."

Mr. Vaidya likewise said the situation was gradually returning to normal and that work "in the Kathmandu district office had been carried out without disturbances."

A source close to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's cabinet said the Nepali Congress government would stand firm against "the undisciplined civil servants who do not want to cooperate with the new government for the successful functioning of the democracy in Nepal."

The source added that the government, which took office in May after winning the country's first democratic elections, would make no concession to the civil servants until a new five-member pay commission submitted its recommendations.

The commission was formed Thursday under former Accountant-General Narakanta Adhikari with orders to report back to the government within three months.

Meanwhile, Sailja Acharya, the minister for forest and soil conservation, warned Saturday of a "grave conspiracy" being hatched against both the Nepali Congress government and Nepal's newly established democratic system.

Ms. Acharya appealed to Nepalis to be aware of unscrupulous pro-panchayat forces and to safeguard democracy in the country.

Workers Hold Protest in Kathmandu

BK2207000691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1701 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 21 (AFP)—More than 2,000 "non-official grade" civil servants held a silent demonstration here Sunday to press demands for higher salaries and better health and education benefits.

The civil servants, who came out on strike Wednesday, marched peacefully through the capital carrying placards calling for increased privileges and withdrawal of the "black civil service act," which authorizes department heads to dismiss non-official grade civil servants.

State radio broadcast Sunday a statement from the Nepali Congress Parliamentary Party (NCPP), which met Saturday to discuss the civil servants' action.

The statement appealed to the strikers to end their agitation and await the recommendations of the country's new pay commission.

"It is very sad that while the Nepali Congress government is seeking to solve problems, civil servants should strike and throw life into chaos on the grounds of pressing for higher pay," the statement said.

The statement called on the civil servants to "contribute to national construction and pay (?more) attention to the future of democracy and the overall situation in the country."

Japanese Finance Minister on Visit

Promises New Aid

OW2007021491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0153 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Katmandu, July 20 KYODO—Visiting Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto pledged Friday a package of grant assistance of 40 million dollars to Nepal to carry out various development projects in the kingdom, the Japanese Embassy here reported.

The pledge was made during talks Friday between Hashimoto and Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, the embassy said in a press release.

The grant will be used for increasing food production, expanding health, telecommunication services, and transportation facilities, and developing natural water fisheries.

Hashimoto arrived earlier Friday for a four-day visit to Nepal on his way home from the summit of industrially advanced nations in London.

$40 Million in Aid Offered

BK2007093191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0652 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 20 (AFP)—Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has pledged 40 million U.S. dollars in aid to Nepal for various development projects, the Japanese Embassy said Saturday.

Mr. Hashimoto made the offer of aid during a meeting with Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Friday, the embassy said in a statement released to the press.

The money is to be spent on development projects including improving water supplies, upgrading health care and expanding telecommunications in rural areas, the statement said.

The Japanese minister also visited Nepal's only children's hospital Friday where he donated money and pledged additional aid to build an extension.

President of the Nepal pediactrician's association Bala Krishan Khan conferred honorary membership of the group on Mr. Hashimoto.

Pakistan

Government Sources Downplay Border Tension

BK2307070991 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jul 91 p 1

[By Mohammad Saleh Zaafir]

[Text] Islamabad, July 22—Pakistan will take up the reported concentration of Indian troops on Pakistan's border adjacent to Rajasthan, with Indian military authorities. Increasing incidents of firing on Line of Control in Kashmir by the Indian Army will also come up during high level military contact.

This has been stated by the Director General Military Operations [DGMO] Major General Jamshaid Malik on Monday evening. He had discussed the military positions with his Indian counterpart Lt Gen Satish Nambiar last week.

To a question by "THE MUSLIM" the DGMO said there was no cause of alarm or worry. The Government of Pakistan, he said, had no independent information about the concentration of troops by India on Rajasthan border. To another question, the General said Pakistan would not deploy its troops on international borders with India, particularly in Rajathan area as there was no information of Indian troops, movement there. He said that Pakistan had not sent any enforcement in any area of the borders with India.

Major General Jamshaid Malik to a question, said that the Siachen front was quiet and no noticeable incident had taken place on that front these days.

The General told that Pakistan Armed Forces were vigilant and would keep an eye on the movement along the border.

Meanwhile, a highly placed source in the Foreign Office to a query said there was no signal of danger on account of newspapers reports regarding the movement of Indian forces on Pakistan's border.

Sources said the army should always be ready for any eventuality, but it doesn't essentially mean that situation was becoming hot on the border. At the moment there was no tension on borders as "all countries of the area would prefer to maintain peace. [no end quote marks as published]

He was of the view that South Asia was stable these days and there was no crisis.

According to sources Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is closely in touch with the concerned authorities on the domestic and external situation.

Secretary General Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki had a detailed meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Governor House Murree on Monday. They exchanged views on the latest situation in the region.

Earlier Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had separate meeting with the outgoing Chief of Army Staff [COAS] and COAS-designate during the last two days.

General Says 'Shadow of War Appearing'

BK2207104591 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Sialkot—General Mirza Aslam Beg, Chief of the Army Staff has said that Pakistan Army possesses the capability to deter war as well as defeat the aggressions.

The Chief of the Army Staff observed this while addressing troops in Kharian, Mangla, Gujrenwala and Sialkot during his farewell visit to different formations of the Pakistan army.

Gen Beg spoke in detail about the security environments, the quiet revolution taking place in indigenous defence production and the army's preparedness to meet the challenges.

About the security environment, Gen Beg said that events were fast changing in the region and the shadows of war had started appearing. He said that the freedom struggle of the people of Kashmir was gaining momentum with every passing day, and it is now impossible to suppress it. "It is quite likely that in sheer desparation India could lead to venture against Pakistan", he cautioned.

Gen. Beg said that India would not be alone in such adventures against Pakistan as it would be aided by others who are so frantically out to harm and destabilise Pakistan. He said that the presence of Israeli commandos in Held Kashmir amply spoke of the designs of our enemy.

Talking about the indigenous defence production, the Chief of the Army Staff said that big strides, including the manufacturing of a tank of our own, has given a big lead to the Pakistan army, thus bringing about a quiet revolution. "We are today making all types of ammunition and weapons indigenously," he said and disclosed that Pakistan soon will be embarking upon the manufacture of guns of high calibre and light helicopters. "All this has helped Pakistan army to enhance its war stamina and in shunning its dependence on foreign assistance," he added.

The Chief of Army Staff said that Pakistan army today stood at a high pedestal of professionalism and operational preparedness enough to awe its enemies. He said that he could bring such a stature to the army only because of the active and positive response to his ideas and thoughts by all officers and men and while laying off the uniform he was contented to see that Pakistan army today enjoyed the total respect of the nation which admired its professionalism and dedication to duty.

Speaking on these occasions, Corps Commander and General Officers Commanding of the areas paid rich tributes to Gen Beg for his meritorious services rendered for building up the image of the army and bringing professionalism, dignity and honour to this elite institution of Pakistan.

They said that it was only because of the dedicated services, ideas and visions of Gen Beg that Pakistan army today was touching the zenith of professisonal excellence.

Gen Beg during his visit to these formations planted trees as memento of his farewell calls, met the commanders in their respective offices and talked to them on professional matters. Souvenirs were also presented to the Chief of Army Staff on all these occasions.

$10 Million Credit for Sudan Planned

BK2107135691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan is to extend a credit of $10 million to Sudan for the import of Pakistani machinery and equipment including tractors and pumping sets. This was stated by the finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon at the end of the two-day meeting of the Pakistan-Sudan Joint Ministerial Commission. He said the loan will be valid for 10 years with a two year grace period. Mr. Sartaj Aziz said the two sides will sign a protocol for cooperation in the field of industry, trade, education, and technical assistance in agriculture.

Azad Kashmir Assembly Session Set for 29 Jul

BK2107150691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] The first session of the newly-elected legislative assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] will be held in Muzaffarabad on 29 July. The speaker, deputy speaker and the prime minister of AJK will be elected during the session. The legislative assembly secretary said in Muzaffarabad today that the assembly's budget session is expected to be held during the second week of next month. The election of the AJK president will be held within 30 days of the president's resignation.

Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan of Muslim Conference has been provisionally declared elected unopposed for the AJK legislative assembly seat reserved for ulema and priests.

Kashmir Premier-Designate Discusses Priorities

BK2207100291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister-designate of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, has said unflinching support to the liberation struggle of the people of held-Kashmir will be his top priority. In an interview in Muzaffarabad today, he denounced Indian brutalities on innocent Kashmiri people and underscored the need for resolving the Kashmir issue in a peaceful manner in accordance with UN resolutions.

Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan said the new government in Azad Kashmir would concentrate on maximum income generation to make the state self-reliant. He said budgetary alocations for developments would not be utilized in the outgoing fiscal year. These would be fully used during the current year to enable the state to march on the road to development.

Sri Lanka

Defense Secretary on Fighting at Elephant Pass

BK1907115091 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Heavy fighting is continuing at Elephant Pass and also at Weli Oya north of Trincomalee between the security forces and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. Defense Secretary General Cyril Ranatunga told newsmen at yesterday's weekly Cabinet news briefing at the Gramodaya Center in Colombo that 503 terrorists were killed in these two operations. Several LTTE senior caders and 64 government soldiers were also killed in the fighting.

General Ranatunga also explained in detail Operation Balawegaya, which commenced on the 14th of this month to clear the terrorists from the Elephant Pass. About 100 tractors and vehicles belonging to the people in the area were used by the LTTE to launch the attack against the security forces. Some of the vehicles were destroyed. More than 150 weapons of various makes have been seized. Detailing the Balawegaya Operation, General Ranatunga said two crack brigades landed by sea and continued to advance in the direction of the besieged camp from several sides. The (?sea-borne) landing was carried out successfully in a joint effort by the three armed forces personnel.

General Ranatunga said that the entire economy of the northern province has been ruined by the LTTE, who totally destroyed the KKS [Kankesanthurai] cement factory, Paranthan Chemicals Corporation, (Salterns), and agricultural holdings. He told newsmen that the Sri Lankan authorities are continuing to fetch food and medicine to the north under immense difficulty.

LTTE Leadership Orders Wounded To Be Killed

BK1907124391 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1129 GMT 19 Jul 91

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, July 19 (LANKAPUVATH)—As Sri Lanka's security forces were reported to be breaking the back of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] resistance at Elephant Pass, the terrorist high command radioed orders to its field commanders to kill all seriously wounded cadres, due to acute logistic problems in evacuating the wounded from the battlefield.

The orders to shoot dead all seriously wounded LTTE terrorists was broadcast on LTTE radio transmissions Thursday [18 July] night and this morning by Yogaratnam Yogi, Secretary of the LTTE's political wing, the People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT).

Army commander Lt General Hamilton Wanasinghe, who returned this morning after a tour of the battlefront told LANKAPUVATH that a hard, grim battle was being fought at Elephant Pass. He said the security forces were fighting with great courage and bravery.

General Wanasinghe said the morale of government troops was high. He said the back of the LTTE resistance was being broken. Ground troops backed by strong air support were moving forward despite heavy enemy resistance and had come to within 2,500 meters of the beleagured Elephant Pass camp which straddles the strategic southern entrance to the Jaffna peninsula.

He said 100 terrorists and 15 soldiers were killed in Thursday's fighting. A total of 600 LTTE cadres, including 75 women and 63 soldiers, have been killed in nine days of fighting. General Wanasinghe said another troop induction made a seaborne landing Thursday at Vettilaikkeni, where earlier the security forces established a beachhead. They were this morning consolidating their positions and were in readiness to do battle with a new LTTE group which had assembled in a coconut plantation at Yakachchi, a few kilometers north of Vettilakeni. The security forces coastal landing point is 10 kilometers north east of Elephant Pass.

General Wanasinghe said the battle for Elephant Pass was being fought on open terrain and this better suited the security forces who were successfully fighting the terrorists both on the ground and from the air. Instead of troops having to seek out the terrorists, the LTTE was continuing to come out, fighting in the open and suffering enormous casualties.

Meanwhile, military analysts said the latest LTTE debacle was a gross error of judgement made by the terrorist high command in thinking that they could overrun the isolated Elephant Pass security forces camp in one sweep. The LTTE had overestimated its strength and underestimated the strength of the defenders.

Instead, the soldiers in the camp had put up a heroic defence and repulsed the first wave of attacks which began at 1000 hours on Wednesday, July 10th. When the terrorists later reached the camp's second line of defence, the soldiers broke out of camp and successfully engaged the enemy in hand to hand combat, killing at least 100 in a brave and magnificent fight back.

The second miscalculation made by the LTTE leadership according to the military analysts, was that the terrorists did not anticipate the seaborne landing of the two brigades from the eastern command.

According to intelligence reports, the LTTE had thought that it had sufficent fire power on the coast north of Chundikulam where Vettilaikkeni is located, to prevent a seaborne landing of government troops. What happened in fact was that their gun positions were knocked out by the navy and the relief troops, as they arrived on shore.

Casualties for 10-Day Elephant Pass Battle

BK2007111091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1021 GMT 20 Jul 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 20 (LANKAPUVATH)—Government troops were today consolidating their positions and replenishing logistics in their advance to link up with the beleagured Elephant Pass security forces camp. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH there were no fresh attacks from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] which on its own admission has lost over 500 cadres. They said the actual tally in the ten day battle for Elephant Pass was 750 LTTE dead, including 95 women cadres and an estimated 1500 wounded, many of them seriously. The security forces have lost 81 killed including 7 officers, one missing in action and 340 wounded, 21 of them seriously.

The sources said that reinforcements from the eastern command who landed Thursday at Vettilaikkeni, a point 10 kilometres north east of the Elephant Pass camp where the two brigades had earlier established a beachead, had defeated an LTTE force which attacked from Aiyakachchi Friday morning, a point north of Vettilaikkeni, killing 50 terrorists. With the terrorists concentrating their firepower on the two brigades marching to the Elephant Pass camp, there were no fresh attacks on the camp. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE radio transmission monitored in Colombo this morning had announced that 500 of its cadres had been killed in the battle for Elephant Pass.

Official sources said that Yogaratnam Yogi, deputy leader of the LTTE's political wing had boasted on the LTTE radio earlier, that the Elephant Pass security forces camp would be captured on July 14th and that it was the decisive battle for Eelam and styled it a war between two countries. Now that the LTTE is suffering another big humiliating defeat the LTTE leadership has broadcast that 500 of its cadres had already been killed and the terrorists were suffering the biggest defeat ever at the hands of Sri Lanka's security forces and desperately exhorted Tamils in the north and east to join its ranks.

Meanwhile, military analysts said the latest LTTE debacle was a gross error of judgement made by the terrorist high command in thinking that they could overrun the isolated Elephant Pass security forces camp in one sweep. The LTTE had overestimated its strength and underestimated the strength of the defenders. Instead, the soldiers in the camp had put up a heroic defence and repulsed the wave of attacks which began at 1000 hours on Wednesday July 10th. When the terrorists later reached the camp's second line of defence the soldiers broke out of camp and successfully engaged the enemy in hand to hand combat killing at least 100 in a brave and magnificent fight back. The second miscalculation made by the LTTE leadership according to the military analysts, was that the terrorists did not anticipate the seaborne landing of the two brigades from the Eastern Command. According to intelligence reports the LTTE had thought that it had sufficient fire power on the coast north of Chundikulam where Vettilaikkeni is located, to prevent a seaborne landing of government troops. What happened in fact was that their gun positions were knocked out by the navy and the relief troops, as they arrived on shore.

Meanwhile, thirty LTTE terrorists were shot dead by the security forces in an encounter in the northern Mannar District, Friday. Three soldiers including two officers were killed in the fire fight which followed a group of about 75 terrorists attacking a security forces patrol at Varnkerni on the Mannar-Colombo road.

Troops Advance; LTTE Base Seized

BK2107091891 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0804 GMT 21 Jul 91

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, July 21 (LANKAPUVATH)—As seaborne government troops resumed their advance to relieve the beleaguered Elephant Pass security forces camp in Jaffna Saturday [20 July], army commandos and special forces troops captured a major LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] base at Nithikaikulam in Weli Oya in the Mullaittivu District. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the two brigades having completed replenishing stores of food, ammunition and other logistics Saturday afternoon resumed their advance to Elephant Pass amidst stiff enemy resistance.

Latest report state heavy fighting was continuing today. Ground troops were reported to be at a point three and a half (3 1/2) kilometres north east of the Elephant Pass camp. There was sporadic firing of mortars by the terrorists at the camp Saturday. The fire was returned.

LTTE casualties in the latest round of fighting were reported heavy with around 50 dead. An LTTE radio transmission stated one of the terrorists killed was Lt. Col. [Lieutenant Colonel] Murthi. Eight soldiers were also killed Saturday. LTTE have lost an estimated 650 men and women cadres. LTTE radio has confirmed that 500 of its cadres have been killed in 10 days of fighting at Elephant Pass. A total of 89 soldiers have also been killed in the battle.

Meanwhile, army commandos and special forces troops successfully stormed a major LTTE base at Nithikaikulam, described as the main terrorists base in Mullaittivu.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 20 terrorists were killed here. Four commandos and one member of the special forces brigade were also reported killed.

Air Force Bombs LTTE Forward Lines

BK2207115691 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1124 GMT 22 Jul 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 22 (LANKAPUVATH)—As operation Balawegaya entered its second week, air force planes pounded the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's] forward lines today, to clear the way for ground troops who were reported regrouping before continuing to advance. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that further troop reinforcements were linking up with the main force which had progressed seven kilometres from the beachhead established at Vettilaikkeni on July 14. They were now 3 ¼ kilometres from the Elephant Pass security forces camp straddling the isthmus at the southern entrance to the Jaffna Peninsula which has been under LTTE siege since July 10.

Seventy LTTE cadres, including seven group leaders, were killed in heavy fighting Sunday, described by a military spokesman as "face to face" close combat. Official sources said government troops had progressed seven kilometres Sunday despite stiff enemy resistance.

Air Force helicopters and fighter bombers were bombing and strafing the enemy lines with great intensity and destroying bunkers trenches and minefields, clearing a way for the advancing ground troops. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the fighting was now on a terrain marked by palmyra and coconut trees, scrub jungle and soft sand.

LTTE Using Antiaircraft Guns

BK2307091691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] continues to offer stiff resistance to the government troops trying to reach the besieged strategic Elephant Pass camp in the Northern Province. Sources in Colombo said the Army columns are reported to be finding it very difficult to proceed further to free the 800 soldiers trapped inside for 12 days. The communication lines between the troops and the command were cut off for the first time during the battle. LTTE is reported to be using anti-aircraft guns for the first time. About 820 LTTE militants and 87 soldiers, including officers, have been killed in the battle.

164 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed

BK2307132091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1220 GMT 23 Jul 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jul 23 (LANKAPUVATH)—One hundred and sixty four LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres were reported killed Monday [22 July] at Elephant Pass in the latest round of fighting when the terrorists staged an abortive attack from their southern flank on government troops. Twelve soldiers were also killed in what military sources described as a ding-dong battle which went on till evening.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH the latest round of fighting had taken place at Melliyan, a point three km directly east of Elephant Pass security forces camp where troops have staged a heroic holding operation and withstood a 13 day siege.

The sources said 124 bodies of dead terrorists were found by ground troops this morning as the dust settled on the latest round of fighting. Sixty more bodies were seen by Air Force pilots who provided strong air support to the ground troops. Seventy terrorist weapons were also captured.

Official sources said there was a lull in the fighting today, as troops were consolidating their positions and changing around. Over 800 LTTE terrorists and 101 soldiers have died in the two week battle for Elephant Pass.

The troops of Operation Balawegaya, who secured a beachead at Vettilaikkeni on the northeast coast of the Jaffna Peninsula on July 14, have moved down the sliver of land flanked by the sea on the east and the Thondamannar Lagoon on the west, reached Mulliayan at the southern end of the Lagoon and turned south west on the last three km leg to the Elephant Pass camp.

Tamil Tigers Set Up Cabinet of Ministers

BK2107112691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Colombo, July 21 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas fighting for an independent nation in northeastern Sri Lanka have formed their own cabinet of ministers, rival Tamil sources said here Sunday. The sources from groups opposed to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the Tigers had recently set up a Thamil Eela Amaicharavai or Cabinet of Ministers for Tamil Eelam, in their northern stronghold of Jaffna. The sources could not say whether the LTTE move was to fill the political vacuum in the northeast where the Sri Lankan Government dismissed a rival regional administration a year ago as demanded by the LTTE during peace talks.

Fourteen months of peace negotiations between Colombo and the LTTE ended in failure in June last year leading to renewed fighting between both sides in the Tamil-dominated northeast. The LTTE could not be reached for confirmation of the cabinet report nor could it be independently verified. Security officials here were not available for comment.

According to the sources, the LTTE's deputy leader and top military commander, Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah has been given the portfolio of minister in charge of cabinet affairs and defence. The organisation's theoreotician Anton Balasingham is minister of external affairs while political secretary Yogaratnam Yogi has been named minister of finance and internal affairs. The sources said it was not clear what position LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabakharan has in the so-called Tiger cabinet.

Former leaders of the militant Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) Velupillai Balakumar and K. Pararajasingham, who both left their group to join the LTTE, have also been given portfolios. Mr. Balakumar, a childhood friend of Mr. Prabakharan, has been named minister of agriculture and food while K. Pararajasingham, a former MP, is minister for rehabilitation, the sources said.

A civil servant in Jaffna has been picked as secretary to the LTTE cabinet while a retired judge has been given the justice ministership, the sources said, adding it was not clear whether they had accepted the appointments. The sources also said a board carrying the title Thamil Eela Amaicharavai was displayed prominently in Jaffna.

The LTTE action in setting up a cabinet is seen here by political observers as a propaganda ploy in their campaign to carve out a separate state called Eelam for Sri Lanka's two-million Tamil minority in the northeast. The Sri Lankan Government has repeatedly said that if the LTTE wanted to claim political supremacy in the embattled northeast, it should contest elections with all other political parties.

Decision on BCCI Takeover Scheduled for 22 Jul

BK2207150291 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1359 GMT 22 Jul 91

["OANA/Pool item]

[Text] Colombo, July 22 (LANKAPUVATH)—The decision to close temporarily the Sri Lanka branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Limited (BCCI) was not taken in Sri Lanka. However, a decision to getting a private bank in Sri Lanka to take over its affairs will be taken today. This was stated by Mr. R. Paskaralingam, secretary to the ministry of policy planning and implementation, in answer to a question raised by the media at the weekly press conference of the department of information held at the Gramodaya Centre in Colombo today. Explaining the causes that led to the temporary closure of the BCCI, he stated that it was not due to any laxity on the part of the Sri Lanka Central Bank but due to irregularities elsewhere.

Dr. Wimal Wickremasinghe, minister of environment and the minister of state for policy planning and implementation, dealing on the subject of Pradeshiya Sabhas [provincial councils] stated that resource profiles for all Pradeshiya Sabhas have been already completed under a 3 year plan from '90 to '93 on the direction of President Ranasinghe Premadasa and each member of parliament has been allocated Rs. [rupees] 25 lakhs in this connection for development work in their respective areas.

Answering a question by the media, the minister disclosed that five hundred million U.S. dollars have been allocated from foreign aid for the rehabilitation of the north and east. These monies will be exclusively used for development projects in the north and eastern areas and the government agents of the areas who are also accounting officers of the government have been entrusted with the monies so allocated and they are responsible for the correct utilization of these monies.